

TO: Western Interstate Energy Board

FROM: Doug Larson, Executive Director

DATE: April 25, 2000

SUBJECT: **Summary of Actions at the April 17 Board Meeting**

With nine states (AZ, CA, ID, MT, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY) and three provinces (AB, BC, SK) present, the Board took the following actions.

- Approved the minutes of the October 18, 1999 Board meeting.
- Received reports on the activities of the Board's committees since the October 1999 meeting.
- Discussed with Jim Souby via conference call 1) the governors energy priorities (electric system reliability, gasoline prices, oil and gas exploration and development, impacts of environmental concerns on coal-fired generation), 2) potential energy-related resolutions the governors may consider at their annual meeting in June in Hawaii (readoption of an existing policy on electric industry restructuring, readoption of an existing policy on abandoned mine cleanup, a potential resolution on gasoline prices and a potential resolution on a national energy policy), 3) the position of the western coal industry vis-à-vis climate change; 4) a request for WIEB's help in implementing a WGA resolution on the deduction of federal agency administrative costs from the states' share of Mineral Leasing Act receipts, and 5) a meeting between western premiers and governors in May. If electric system reliability becomes a topic for the meeting of the premiers and governors, then WIEB needs to prepare a briefing paper.
- Adopted a motion to: 1) approve the proposed budget and work plan for FY 2000-2001; 2) authorize the acceptance of funds in the areas of radioactive waste, regional electricity cooperation, mine reclamation, transportation (including alternative fuels), and energy efficiency and renewable energy; 3) authorize the Executive Committee (Chairman, First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, and Treasurer) to approve, between meetings of the Board, the acceptance of funds in other areas, upon the written advice of members of the Board; 4) authorize the Executive Committee to approve merit increases and the exact cost-of-living increase for employees based on a survey of state cost-of-living increases; 5) approve a five percent merit increase for the executive director; and 6) direct staff to work with WGA to investigate the feasibility and cost of electronic storage of documents (e.g., WIEB high-level waste library). Dues for FY 2000-2001 are set at the same level as the current year (\$18,000 for voting member states, \$10,000 for associate state members, \$8,000 for associate provincial members).
- Reelected the following officers for the coming year: John Nunley (WY), Chairman; John Savage (OR), First Vice Chairman; Rose McKinney-James (NV),

Second Vice Chair; and Bill Keese (CA), Treasurer. Nunley, McKinney-James and Keese were also elected as officers of the Western Interstate Nuclear Board.

- Discussed with DOE the agency's Wind Power America and GeoPowering the West programs.
- Received a briefing from the Energy Information Administration on gasoline prices and a report from Dan Nix on the California Energy Commission's evaluation of gasoline prices.
- Received a briefing from Bill Keese (CA) on oxygenate requirements for gasoline and California's request for a waiver from such requirements. California may propose a WGA resolution or letter on the issue or WIEB action.
- Received briefs from Trevor Dark (SK) on the greenhouse gas monitoring effort for the Weyburn enhanced oil recovery project; from Don MacDonald (AB) on Alberta's Climate Change Central and general strategy to deal with the convergence of climate change, electric industry restructuring and new technologies; and from Bill Eastlake (ID) on legislative changes affecting the state's authority over electric utility mergers.
- Received a report from Bill Chamberlain, General Counsel of the California Energy Commission, on potential actions to create a western regional advisory body under electric reliability legislation pending in Congress. Although no further action is needed at this time, there will be a need to move quickly to establish the advisory body in the event legislation is enacted.
- Received an update from Jeff Burks (UT), Co-Chair of the Air Pollution Prevention Forum of the Western Regional Air Partnership, on the renewable energy recommendations emerging from the Forum's work and the upcoming work on energy efficiency.