

Proposed FY 2008-2009 Work Plan for the Western Interstate Energy Board

The work plan directs staff to undertake programs and projects to address issues of Board concern. The work plan is also designed to reflect the priorities of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) and to contribute to the implementation of the WGA work plan.

The proposed work plan continues to focus on the Board's six climate change-related priorities adopted in April 2007 and supports the work of the Board's three committee: High-Level Radioactive Waste; Energy Minerals Reclamation; and the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation.

The following table summarizes the proposed allocation of resources by program.

Summary of Work Plan, Budget and Revenue Sources

	Expenditure	Restricted Revenue	Unrestricted revenue
I) Affordable and Reliable Energy Supplies			
A) Electricity			
1) Information sharing and meetings of CREPC	55,000	25,000	30,000
2) Market monitoring	2,000		2,000
3) LSE resource plans	23,000		23,000
4) WREZ	77,000	77,000	0
5) Integration of variable generation renewables	75,000	75,000	0
6) Hybrid generation technologies	2,000		2,000
7) Electrification of the transportation sector	5,000		5,000
B) Petroleum	0		0
C) Natural gas	0		0
II) Energy Byproducts			
A) High-level radioactive waste transportation shipments	125,000	125,000	
B) Energy mineral mine reclamation	20,000		20,000
C) Carbon sequestration	1,000	1,000	
III) Information Exchange			
A) Sharing information and experience (including sharing of information on climate-change related developments)	60,000		60,000
B) Analyze and report energy developments (including support for WGA in analysis of federal cap and trade legislation)	46,000		46,000
TOTAL	491,000	303,000	188,000

The Board will review the proposed work plan at its annual meeting on April 1.

MISSION

The Western Interstate Nuclear Compact, the legal basis of the Board, states that the purpose of the Board is to provide the instruments and framework for cooperative efforts to “enhance the economy of the West and contribute to the individual and community well-being of the region’s people.” The Board seeks to achieve this purpose through cooperative efforts among member states/provinces and through cooperative efforts between the West and the federal government in the field of energy. The Board also supports the efforts of the Western Governors’ Association through technical study and policy analysis.

WIEB has the following objectives:

- ▶ Provide a forum for identifying, evaluating, and resolving regional energy-related issues;
- ▶ Build the capacity of states/provinces to effectively address issues related to the production, distribution and consumption of energy and its byproducts;
- ▶ Promote cooperative efforts between the U.S. federal government and western states/provinces that foster the well-being of the region’s people;
- ▶ Provide for the timely analysis and sharing of information among western states/provinces on energy-related issues; and
- ▶ Provide policy and technical support to the Western Governors’ Association.

PROGRAMS

Programs in the proposed WIEB work plan are grouped into three categories.

1) Affordable and Reliable Energy Supplies

A) Electricity¹

- 1) Information sharing and meetings of CREPC
- 2) Market monitoring (some of which applies to natural gas)
- 3) West-wide Renewable Energy Zone project (WREZ)
- 4) Transmission planning and expansion, including transmission corridors
- 5) Integration of variable generation renewables
- 6) Hybrid generation technologies
- 7) Transmission permitting
- 8) Electrification of the transportation sector (e.g., plug-in hybrids)

B) Petroleum

C) Natural gas

¹ For more details on several of these items, see [CREPC 2008-09 work plan](#) .

II) Energy Byproducts

- A) Safety in high-level radioactive waste transportation shipments
- B) Successful active energy mineral reclamation and abandoned mine clean-up
- C) Carbon sequestration

III) Information Exchange

- A) Expand the quality and timeliness of interstate sharing of information and experience, particularly in the area of climate change-related activities
- B) Analyze and report energy developments (including support for WGA analysis of the impact on the West of proposed federal carbon emission cap and trade legislation)

Acronyms

CREPC	WIEB's Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
DOE	Department of Energy
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
HLW	High-level radioactive waste
LBNL	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
LSE	Load-Serving Entity
WGA	Western Governors' Association
WIRAB	Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body
WREZ	West-Wide Renewable Energy Zones

I. Affordable and Reliable Energy Supplies

A. Electricity

- 1) Information sharing and meetings of CREPC
- 2) Market monitoring (some of which applies to natural gas)
- 3) LSE resource plans
- 4) WREZ
- 5) Integration of variable generation renewables
- 6) Hybrid generation technologies
- 7) Electrification of the transportation sector

GOAL Promote actions that contribute to the goal of affordable and reliable electricity supplies. (WGA Resolutions [05-30](#), [05-02](#), [06-10](#), [06-03](#))

BENEFITS Affordable and reliable supplies of electric power can provide significant economic benefits to the West. Businesses and citizens of the West spend more than \$50 billion annually on electric power (or over \$800 per capita). Given the interconnected nature of the western electric power system and the diversity of governmental entities (e.g., state PUCs, state siting agencies, FERC, Canadian provinces) exercising regulatory authority over

parts of the system, it is essential that there be close communication and cooperation among states and provinces, with the U.S. federal government, and with the industry participants in order to foster economic efficiency and achieve other regional objectives, such as system reliability, stable prices and minimizing environmental impacts including greenhouse gas emissions.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

- 1) Provide a forum for state/provincial regulators, energy agencies and facility siting agencies to share information and collectively interact with FERC, DOE and the Western electric power industry.
 - Hold two meetings of the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation (CREPC), webinars and workshops at which outside parties, such as FERC, DOE and industry, would be invited to address issues of interest to Committee members.
- 2) Enhance communication between western states/provinces and FERC on monitoring of electricity (and natural gas) markets.
- 3) Share information on the climate change impacts of load serving entity resource plans
- 4) Under a DOE grant to WGA, WIEB would assist in the execution of the WREZ project, primarily in the execution of Phase 2 regarding transmission to renewable energy zones.
- 5) Under the DOE wind grant, work would be done on integrating significant new variable renewable generation into the western power system.
- 6) Minor activity would occur to monitor developments related to advanced coal/wind hybrid technologies.
- 7) Some work on grid impacts of plug-in hybrid vehicles would be done as follow-up to the Board's discussion of this subject at its April 1-2, 2008 meeting.
- 8) No staff support would be provided for CREPC's work on resource adequacy, cost allocation/recovery, or transmission permitting. (WIRAB will be addressing resource adequacy.)

BUDGET: \$25,000 from the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners; \$75,000 from the DOE wind grant; \$77,000 from a WREZ grant from DOE to WGA; \$62,000 from unrestricted revenues.

I.B. Petroleum

No activities would be undertaken in this area.

I.C. Natural Gas

No activities would be undertaken in this area, except for collaboration with FERC on market monitoring which is reflected under I.A.

II. Energy Byproducts

A. Safe high-level radioactive waste transportation shipments

GOAL To ensure adequate preparations are made to support the safe and uneventful transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste in the West and to provide technical support to WGA on nuclear waste issues. (WGA Resolutions [07-07](#), [07-02](#), [06-07](#), [05-15](#))

BENEFITS Protect citizenry from unnecessary risks from the transportation of spent fuel and HLW and ensure that the costs of preparations for shipments are borne by the beneficiaries of such shipments.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

- (1) Evaluate and provide a regional perspective on high-level radioactive waste transportation activities being conducted by the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.
- (2) Facilitate communications between western states and the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, other federal agencies, and other regions.
- (3) Identify and resolve regional transportation concerns to permit the safe and uneventful transportation of spent fuel and HLW in the West.
- (4) Provide technical expertise in support of WGA nuclear waste programs and policies.
- (5) Meet the information needs of western states.

BUDGET \$125,000 from DOE under a cooperative agreement between DOE and WIEB. This assumes a \$125,000 reduction in DOE support in FY 08-09 attributable to cuts in the budget for DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

B. Successful coal and uranium mine reclamation

GOAL To improve western state programs to regulate coal and uranium mining

BENEFITS Improved administration of state mine regulatory programs will lessen environmental impacts from coal and uranium mining.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

As needed, hold meetings and conference calls of the WIEB Energy Mineral Reclamation Committee to address issues such as technical assistance to state programs, regulatory grants, oversight of state programs

by the federal Office of Surface mining, and state experiences in regulating a resurgence of uranium mining.

BUDGET \$20,000 from unrestricted funds.

C. Carbon Sequestration

GOAL Assist WGA in providing education and outreach support to DOE and the four regional carbon sequestration partnerships in the West. (WGA resolution [06-03](#))

BENEFITS As pilot geological and terrestrial projects are conducted, it is important that the progress being made is communicated regularly to the Governors, state energy and environmental agencies, stakeholders and the general public.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES In coordination with WGA staff, continue to participate in each of the four partnerships' meetings and DOE outreach work group conferences calls. Provide feedback on outreach products.

BUDGET \$1,000 through a contract with WGA (WGA received a grant from DOE via the Southwest Carbon Sequestration Partnership. WIEB is a subcontractor to WGA.)

III. Information Exchange

A. Expand the quality and timeliness of interstate sharing of information and experiences

GOAL To improve the quality of state/provincial decision-making and to coordinate interstate actions affecting regional energy-related interests through the timely sharing of quality information. Sharing information on climate change-related topics will be the focus in 2008-09.

BENEFITS Rapid sharing of information among states/provinces: (1) enables coordinated action; (2) avoids unnecessary conflicts resulting from misunderstandings; and (3) reduces costs to individual states and provinces by allowing one state/province to benefit from the experience and analyses of another.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

1. Hold meetings to share information and experience on specific topics of common interest
2. Promote an understanding of the objectives of each state/province to allow increased reliance by one state/province on another state/province

for information and analysis

BUDGET \$60,000 from unrestricted funds

B. Analysis and reporting of energy developments

GOAL Provide states/provinces and WGA with timely information and analysis on events affecting their energy-related interests. Issue an annual report that provides a synopsis of Board activities and fulfills the statutory requirements of the Western Interstate Nuclear Compact, the Board's legal basis.

BENEFITS Analysis and dissemination of information on energy-related developments affecting the West can be done at lower cost by a central staff than by each individual state/province. Capturing these economies of scale lowers costs to individual states/provinces and improves understanding of developments outside of one's borders.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

1. Conduct special analyses at the request of states and provinces and WGA. The focus will be on evaluating the impact on the region of U.S. federal carbon emissions cap and trade proposals.
2. Prepare and post the Board's annual report on the WIEB Home Page

BUDGET \$46,000 from unrestricted funds