



Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

January 24, 2008

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John Savage
Chair

Louise McCarren, Chief Executive Officer
Western Electricity Coordinating Council
615 Arapeen Drive, Suite 210
Salt Lake City, UT 84108-1262

Dear Louise:

The Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) submits the attached advice as a 2008 study request to the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) and the Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC). WIRAB makes this request as part of its broader responsibility to provide informed advice about the reliability of the Western Interconnection under Section 215 of the Federal Power Act.

WIRAB believes regional transmission planning must begin examining emerging long-term issues facing the Western Interconnection such as looming carbon regulation. To that end, we are requesting WECC and TEPPC model transmission needs associated with resource mixes that are consistent with the goal of achieving a 15% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 relative to 2005 levels. This is the goal of the seven states and one province in the Western Interconnection that are members of the Western Climate Initiative. This is also consistent with the goal of leading carbon regulation legislation in the U.S. Congress. Such a study, including sensitivity analyses of more and less stringent emission levels, would help us understand transmission needs and operational challenges.

WIRAB recognizes that this study request will require WECC to expand its analysis beyond the traditional production cost modeling. WIRAB is willing to assist TEPPC in this endeavor. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Savage".

John Savage, Chairman
Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

Attachment: WIRAB Advice

cc: Mark Maher
Jay Loock
Steve Walton
Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee