



TO ALL! A HAPPY & HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!

PLANNING CONTINUES FOR 2010 ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING FORUM

The NWCC's *Electrical Transmission Planning Forum: Transition to a Reduced Carbon Energy Economy* is tentatively scheduled for the third week in February, 2010 in Washington, DC. Participants will discuss:

- DOE's Funding Opportunity Announcement for Interconnection Level Planning & Analysis decisions
- Important transmission planning studies and initiatives that might impact future planning
- Cost allocation solutions
- 2010 priorities for each sector

Participants will have the opportunity to share information with leadership from FERC, US Department of Energy, US Department of Interior, Congress, governors' associations, state legislators, regulators, renewable industries, utilities, regional transmission planners, and conservation and wildlife communities.

A meeting location will be confirmed soon. Check the NWCC website for updates, including draft agendas, meeting materials, and location and times. Those who would like to participate in meeting planning should contact James Damon at jdamon@resolv.org.

Upcoming NWCC Calls & Events

Event	Date & Time
NWCC Transmission Update Briefing	Tuesday, December 8 1:00-2:00PM Eastern
NWCC Steering Committee Call	Thursday, December 17 1:00-2:00PM Eastern
NWCC Transmission Workgroup Call	Tuesday, January 19 2:00-3:00PM Eastern
NWCC Wildlife Workgroup Call	Wednesday, January 20 2:30-4:00PM Eastern
NWCC Transmission Interconnection Planning Forum	February, 2010 (<i>tentative</i>) Washington, DC
NWCC Business Meeting	February, 2010 (<i>tentative</i>) Washington, DC

Exciting Feature: A New NWCC Website!

The new NWCC website was designed for improved functionality and includes many features that allow for a more interactive user experience. Among these, includes membership registration and account sign up systems that allow users to manage which NWCC announcements and publications they would like to receive.

Anyone who already receives information from the NWCC will receive an email from James Damon (jdamon@resolv.org) explaining how to set up their account.

Questions? contact James Damon jdamon@resolv.org

WILDLIFE

Wind Wildlife Research Meeting VIII Planning Underway

The NWCC's eighth biennial wind-wildlife research meeting is scheduled for **October 19-21, 2010**, with a Wildlife Workgroup meeting on **October 22, 2010**.

Stay tuned for a meeting location, to be confirmed soon!

The planning committee has begun coordination to identify the scope and focus for this year's research meeting. Look for a call for presentation abstracts in mid-March 2010. To sign up to receive that call for abstracts, please visit: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=cNYt_2bFmt0yRPbH_2bJe7KlyA_3d_3d.

Parties interested in co-sponsoring the meeting should contact Taylor Kennedy at tkennedy@resolv.org.

GS3C Sage Grouse Collaborative

The newly formed Sage Grouse Collaborative Steering Committee has begun the process of selecting two Scientific Academic representatives to complete its membership. The Committee is also developing draft research questions and protocols that will result in credible scientific research to better understand wind energy impacts on Sage Grouse. Studies will be coordinated across multiple states and multiple sites to maximize the value of research dollars and avoid piecemeal, inconsistent research efforts. The Steering Committee is also seeking to identify a pool of potential technical experts that could assist in finalizing research questions and protocols, developing RFPs and evaluating proposals. For more information, please contact facilitator Jennifer Bies at jbies@kearnswest.com.

TRANSMISSION

December Transmission Update

The next NWCC Transmission Update call, scheduled on **December 8th at 1:00 pm Eastern**, will explore interconnection-wide planning and renewable energy, particularly the issues of securing bulk renewables in the Midwest to load centers in the East.

The update will focus on how transmission costs should be allocated interconnection-wide, including discussion of beneficiaries and participant funding. Brian Rybarik, an Executive Assistant to Commissioner Lauren Azar of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, and Commissioner Paul Hibbard of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, will participate.

Callers will also hear Jay Caspary about the Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) Highway/Byway cost allocation proposal for new transmission. The 'highway' refers to new transmission assets over 300 kV, whereby the costs will be assigned to transmission owners in SPP based on their historical energy usage. The 'byway' refers to new transmission assets below 300 kV, where costs will be assigned, using a formula, more directly to the utilities where the transmission project is located.

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WILDLIFE

November Wildlife Workgroup Features Wind-Wildlife Research Efforts

November Wildlife Workgroup features wind-wildlife research efforts – The Wildlife Workgroup met by phone on November 12 to hear about ongoing research efforts.

- Representatives from Pandion and Texas Christian University spoke about a Shrub Nesting Passerine Collaborative in central Texas evaluating the relationship between reproductive success of shrub nesting species and proximity to wind turbines.
- A representative from NRC shared a report on wind energy and bird and bat migration in the Upper Mississippi River Basin; callers also heard about a proposed mapping effort in that region.
- A University of Minnesota research proposal examining micro-scale migration patterns was also discussed. A summary of that call will soon be distributed to the Wildlife Workgroup.

The next Wildlife Workgroup call is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 20, 2010 from 2:30-4pm Eastern.** (1:30 Central, 12:30 Mountain, 10:30 Pacific)

Greater Prairie Chickens

The Oversight Committee has received Kansas State University's 3rd quarter report on its study investigating potential impacts to Greater Prairie Chicken from wind energy development. The subgroup will discuss this report and other business on a call scheduled for **Friday, December 18 at noon Eastern.** (11am Central, 10am Mountain, 9am Pacific).

TRANSMISSION

November Transmission Workgroup Features Discussions about Long Term Reliability, FERC Technical Conferences.

The November 17 Transmission Workgroup call featured a presentation by Mark Lauby, of the North American Electrical Reliability Corporation (NERC). Mr. Lauby discussed NERC's 2009 Long-Term Reliability Assessment. The annual report provides an independent view of the reliability of the electrical system, including trends, emerging issues, and potential concerns. To download the report, please visit: <http://www.nerc.com/>

Participants also heard from John Hummer of the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative who discussed recent and projected activities for the Collaborative's recently formed Transmission Workgroup. Terry Black of the Project for Sustainable FERC Energy Policy briefed participants on the Joint Comments for PIOs and Allied Groups in Response to Questions and Issues Identified at FERC Technical Conferences to Evaluate Order 890

The next Transmission workgroup call is scheduled for **January 19, 2010 at 2:00 PM Eastern.** (1:00 Central, 12:00 Mountain, 11:00 Pacific).