

**Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA)**  
**Western Energy Resource Committee (WERC)**  
**Talking Points - September 2007**

**Carbon Sequestration**

***Key Messages:***

***To ALL: Thank the Governors for their interest and acknowledgement of the potential value of carbon sequestration (See WGA Policy Resolution 07-16 – Transitioning the West to Clean Energy and Energy Security).***

***NWPPA has [Resolution 07-11](#) that encourages the development of technologies to mitigate climate change.***

***WGA Positions:***

1. In the WGA Policy Resolution 07-16 (policy statements #5 and #6), the Western Governors call for adequate funding to:
  - a. Support the U.S. Geological Survey’s compilation of state-based assessments of sequestration sites (the national carbon atlas);
  - b. Fund the carbon sequestration partnerships to further identify large-scale (one million tons or more) sequestration sites; and
  - c. Test carbon dioxide sequestration at multiple large-scale sites across the states.
2. Western Governors agree that realizing expeditious, large-scale sequestration of carbon dioxide requires major research and funding, including:
  - a. Adequate federal funding for the identification and mitigation of any risks and liabilities associated with carbon sequestration;
  - b. Adequate federal funding to support the identification and development of CO2 pipeline infrastructure necessary to transport CO2 to sequestration areas;
  - c. Development of regulations that provide for legal consistency in the treatment of CO2, whether it is sequestered through enhanced oil recovery or in designated sequestration storage areas; and
  - d. Development of federal tax credits to be awarded for the capture and sequestration of CO2.

***NWPPA Positions:***

1. NWPPA believes carbon sequestration technology is in its infancy and needs to be proven on a large scale. NWPPA members will be watching this technology with interest while continuing to support new technology investment to find solutions that are proven to work.
2. NWPPA supports increased federal investment in technologies to reduce, capture, transform, transport or sequester greenhouse gases from emission sources nationally. If a cap-and-trade system (or other mechanism) is to be developed to mitigate GHG emissions, NWPPA encourages that it be carefully and thoughtfully structured to minimize consumer exposure to gaming and price volatility, be fair and manageable for small entities, and ensure that infrastructure investments are not at risk.

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3. NWPPA's climate change resolution (7-11) supports additional and expanded federal support for research, development and deployment of cost-effective technologies for a variety of low- and zero-carbon emitting technologies, including renewable technologies such as hydropower, tidal, wave, geothermal, solar, biomass and wind, as well as technologies to *reduce, capture, transform, transport or sequester greenhouse gases from emission sources* throughout the national economy.

***WGA Management Directives:***

WGA's Policy Resolution 07-16 includes a series of management directives in which NWPPA could assist.

Directive # 5 – “The Western Governors direct the WGA staff to work with federal agencies and trade associations to identify research funding necessary to identify and mitigate the risks and liabilities associated with carbon sequestration, develop a pipeline transport system that can move carbon dioxide to enhanced oil recovery and sequestration areas, and develop legal consistency in the treatment of carbon dioxide.”

- NWPPA is willing to help WGA identify NWPPA members who would be interested in working with WGA to identify and build congressional support for such funding.

Directive # 7 – “The Western Governors direct the WGA staff to conduct a workshop to examine accelerating the deployment of near-zero emissions coal technology, financing advanced generation facilities, understanding the current status of carbon capture technology, and resolving legal and liability issues surrounding carbon sequestration.”

- NWPPA is willing to help identify NWPPA members who would be interested in attending the WGA workshop to learn more about carbon capture technology and the legal and liability issues.