

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

Support for Western Transmission

Key Messages:

To ALL: Thank the Governors for their recognition that transmission siting and capacity concerns must be addressed to meet future energy demands (See WGA Policy Resolution 07-16 – Transitioning the West to Clean Energy and Energy Security and CDEAC Report).

NWPPA has [Resolution 07-3](#) In Support for Regional Transmission Solutions.

WGA Positions:

1. In the WGA Policy Resolution 07-16 (policy statements #3 and #4) the Western Governors acknowledge there are transmission issues related to accommodating the integration of large amounts of renewable generation in the Western power system.
2. The Resolution suggests any federal renewable standard protect energy consumers by including an appropriate cost-cap, or other mechanism, that ensures energy consumers are not unreasonably impacted by new investments in renewable energy and related investments in transmission, etc.
3. The Resolution also notes, “Reductions in energy demand can provide valuable time to solve issues related to transmission or emerging technologies.”
4. One of the three key objectives outlined in the [Clean and Diversified Energy Advisory Committee's](#) (CDEAC) Report seeks to *ensure a reliable and secure transmission grid for the next 25 years*. The Report provides state, regional and national policy recommendations to overcome what is identified as a key challenge in developing all new clean power resources: transmission.

NWPPA Positions:

1. While NWPPA members agree transmission expansion should be a priority for the region, they already benefit from a reliable, low-cost power and transmission system. NWPPA supports regional transmission plans with industry support and clear regional benefits. Any national efforts to direct the construction of transmission, whether to renewables or otherwise, are objectionable.
2. Past efforts, as with the failed GridWest proposal, have produced plans with ill-defined governance, excessive costs, loss of regional accountability and greater federal regulation, which remain issues of great concern to the NWPPA membership.
3. NWPPA continues to support efforts to advance transmission proposals that are centered on low-cost solutions to recognized transmission problems. In addition, any effort to modify the existing transmission system should not result in the creation of new institutions that would lessen regional input and control.
4. NWPPA appreciates the Western congressional delegation’s and WGA’s support for regional customers’ perspective on the future development of regional transmission improvements. As discussions continue, NWPPA urges Western leaders to support a measured and inclusive approach toward addressing regional transmission problems.

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WGA Management Directive:

WGA's Policy Resolution 07-16 includes a series of management directives.

Directive #2 – “The Western Governors direct WGA staff to hold a forum on transmission needs to accommodate the integration of large amounts of renewable generation in the Western power system.”

- NWPPA member utilities have been involved in regional transmission discussions for several years and continue to monitor/participate in regional transmission planning groups to develop, fund and implement regional solutions to recognized transmission problems. NWPPA staff can identify NWPPA members that would be appropriate participants for future WGA transmission forums.