

1 **Northwest Public Power Association**  
2 **Resolution 2010-01**  
3 **Regional Transmission Solutions**  
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5 **Background**  
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7 NWPPA recognizes transmission solutions are important to the region. NWPPA believes the  
8 transmission planning process in the Northwest is effective and working well. NWPPA members  
9 already benefit from a reliable, low-cost power and transmission system. The vast majority of  
10 electric utilities operating in the West are dependent on the regional transmission system for  
11 access to Power Marketing Administration (PMA) power and the wholesale power market. Any  
12 proposal aimed at modifying the operating characteristics of the Western regional transmission  
13 system must be cautiously approached, as misguided changes to the fundamental operating  
14 procedures of the transmission grid have had devastating consequences for consumers in other  
15 regions.  
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17 **NWPPA's Position**  
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- 19 • Policymakers should encourage sub-regional planning groups like the ColumbiaGrid, the  
20 Northern Tier Transmission Group and the Transmission Agency of Northern California  
21 to continue to develop, fund and implement regional solutions to transmission  
22 problems.
- 23 • NWPPA supports efforts to advance cost effective proposals to solve recognized  
24 transmission problems including those arising from the integration of variable  
25 generation resources. Any effort to modify the transmission system should not result in  
26 the creation of new institutions that would lessen regional input and control.
- 27 • NWPPA opposes efforts by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to  
28 encourage the formation of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) in the West.  
29 Past RTO proposals have produced ill-defined governance, excessive costs, loss of  
30 regional accountability and greater federal regulation.
- 31 • NWPPA opposes efforts by Congress to direct the construction of transmission.
- 32 • In order to maintain a reliable and stable power supply, NWPPA supports transmission  
33 access for all types of generating resources and beneficiary financing of transmission  
34 lines to serve those resources.
- 35 • Policymakers should support a measured approach to addressing regional transmission  
36 problems that encourages regional collaboration rather than imposing a one-size fits all  
37 system that is costly and ill-suited for the Western region.  
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39 Origination Date: 2005. Revised in 2010.