

# Meeting Transmission Challenges in the Rocky Mountain Region

a workshop sponsored by



**Purpose:** A stakeholder communication with transmission customers, Tribes, developers, state and federal agencies, and utilities about Western Area Power Administration's (Western) Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) and its Transmission Planning and Business Unit. The workshop will provide an overview of Western RMR's transmission planning and services and provide an opportunity for open discussion on overcoming transmission challenges in the region. The workshop will also meet the local transmission planning process requirements for FERC Order 890 as outlined in Western's Open Access Transmission Tariff.

**Who Should Attend:** Western customers, electric utilities, Tribes, generation and transmission developers, state and federal agencies, and community leaders.

**Sponsors:** Western Area Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Technologies Program and U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Program, Cenergy

**Location:** Rocky Mountain Innosphere  
320 E. Vine Drive  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

**Date:** June 21, 2011

**Schedule:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Agenda topics:

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|----------------|--|
| 8:30 - 9:00 am | <b>Registration &amp; Sign-In</b>  |
| 9:00 - 9:10 am | <b>Western Welcome</b> , Brad Warren, Regional Manager, Rocky Mountain Regional Manager, Western   |
| 9:10 - 9:40 am | <b>Understanding Western's Transmission Services Organization</b> , Ron Moulton, Transmission Services Manager and staff, Western <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operations Consolidation Project – Creation of the Transmission Services Organization for the Colorado River Storage Project, Desert Southwest Region, an Rocky Mountain Region</li><li>• Overview of Western's Transmission Services Organization including structure, services and footprint.</li><li>• Western-wide Strategic Planning &amp; Coordination through the Power Systems Operation Council</li><li>• Transmission Services' Support of Western's Transmission Infrastructure Program (TIP)</li><li>• Key Issues in Transmission Services</li></ul> |

- 9:40 - 10:10 am      **Overview of Western's Current Transmission Business Unit Activities**, Mike McElhany, Transmission Business Unit Manager and staff, Western
- General description of the role of the TBU
  - General overview of FERC 890, including new items like "Conditional Firm"
  - Overview of the Western's Interconnection Process
  - Overview of the Western's Transmission Service Process
  - Metrics associated with the Interconnection Queue
  - NERC MOD Standards
- 10:10 – 10:20 am      **Break**
- 10:20 - 10:50 am      **Overview of Western's Current Transmission Planning Activities**, Bob Easton, Transmission Planning Manager and staff, Western
- Second quarter update of Western's Annual Planning Process
  - Update of Western's Rocky Mountain Region ten-year transmission construction plan
  - Update on the WestConnect Planning Management Committee processes
  - Provide a forum for stakeholder input into Western's Annual Planning Process
- 10:50 - 11:20 am      **Overview of Western's Transmission Infrastructure Program**, Craig Knoell, Western
- General Transmission Infrastructure Program (TIP) Update
  - TIP Transition from Recovery Act to Permanent Authority
  - Three TIP Project Models – Financier, Public/Private Partnership, Internal Customer Partnership
  - Update on Depart of Energy and Office of Management and Budget Concurrence Process for TIP
  - Potential Future TIP Projects
- 11:20 - 11:40 am      **Overview of Western Ancillary Services**, Raymond Vojdani, Western
- 11:40 – 12:00 pm      **New Transmission Development in Wyoming**, Loyd Drain, Executive Director, Wyoming Infrastructure Authority
- Transmission projects under development in Wyoming
  - Challenges relative to the development including permitting & siting and marketplace issues
  - Benefits to the marketplace including geographical diversity, relative cost of renewable energy, and natural-gas generation to address the variability of wind
- 12:00 – 12:50 pm      **Box Lunch Speaker: Western Renewable Energy Zone Update**, Jeff Hein, NREL
- Identifying areas in the Western Interconnection with both the potential for large scale development of renewable resources and low environmental impacts
  - Transmission development modeling tool that estimates the economic attractiveness of delivering energy from WREZs to load centers
  - Energy purchasing from WREZs
  - Interstate Cooperation for WREZ and Transmission Development
- 12:50 – 1:10 pm      **Transmission Developments in New Mexico**, Jeremy Turner, Executive Director, New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority
- Transmission projects under construction in New Mexico
  - Role of the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA)
  - Eminent Domain procedures
  - RETA's 1<sup>st</sup> bond issuance
  - Los Alamos National Labs Study

- Proposed collector system project

1:10 – 1:30 pm

**Report by the Colorado Governor’s Energy Office on its Strategic Transmission and Renewables (STAR) Report and the Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority**, Morey Wolfson, Senior Transmission Policy Advisor, Colorado Governor’s Energy Office

- GEO’s Strategic Transmission and Renewables (STAR) Report
- The Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority
- Legislation to create a Transmission Siting and Permitting Task Force

1:30 – 1:45 pm

**Break**

1:45 – 2:15 pm

**Proposed West-Wide Energy Imbalance Market**, Joe Taylor, Manager of Transmission Access, Xcel Energy Services Inc.

- Overview of the proposed Energy Imbalance Market of the Western Interconnection
- Voluntary Resource Offers and Self-Scheduling
- Market Settlements

2:15 – 3:30 pm

**Expert Technical Roundtable Discussions**

- Western Transmission Planning, Bob Easton
- Western Transmission Business Unit, Mike McElhany
- Western Transmission Infrastructure Program, Craig Knoell
- Western Ancillary Services, Raymond Vojdani
- State Transmission Infrastructure Programs – CO, WY, NM
- NREL Transmission, Jeff Hein

3:30 – 4:00 pm

**Workshop Wrap-up**