



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 35800
Billings, MT 59107-5800

NOV 01 2013

**Recommendation from the Western Area Power Administration to Pursue Regional
Transmission Organization Membership**

Dear Customers and Other Interested Parties:

Enclosed, for your information, is a copy of the *Federal Register* notice (Notice) published November 1, 2013, Volume 78, No. 212, Page No. 65641, entitled "Recommendation From the Western Area Power Administration To Pursue Regional Transmission Organization Membership". Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing administration of the Department of Energy, is publishing a recommendation to pursue formal negotiations with the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a Regional Transmission Organization, concerning membership. Western is seeking public comment from Western's customers, Tribes, stakeholders, and the public at large. A decision to pursue implementation of the recommendation will be posted to Western's Alternate Operations Study (AOS) webpage:

<http://www.wapa.gov/ugp/powermarketing/AlternateOperationsStudy/AOS.htm>

Western will have an informational **webinar** on **November 13, 2013**, 9:00 a.m. to no later than 1 p.m. MDT, to rollout meeting agenda and plan for the public comment period. Please visit the AOS webpage to sign up to for the webinar and obtain information regarding Western's recommendation.

Western will present a detailed explanation of the recommendation and listen to customer and stakeholder comments at the following three locations:

November 19, 2013

8:30 a.m. to no later than 1 p.m. CST

Holiday Inn Lincoln-Downtown

141 North 9th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

November 20, 2013

8:30 a.m. to no later than 1 p.m. CST

Holiday Inn Sioux Falls City Centre Hotel

100 West 8th Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

November 21, 2013

8:30 a.m. to no later than 1 p.m. CST

Ramada Plaza Fargo Hotel and Conference Center

1635 42nd Street South, Fargo, ND 58103

The information gathered and analyzed by Western subject matter experts, combined with stakeholder comments, detailed discussions with the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), and the SPP formed the basis of the recommendation that is now being published for comment. A decision to pursue the recommendation will be informed by comments received in response to this Notice. The 45-day public comment period is open November 1, 2013, through December 16, 2013.

For your information and prior to the meetings, please check the AOS webpage for the most up-to-date information. If you have any questions prior to the meetings, please contact me at (406) 255-2910. I look forward to meeting with you in November.

Sincerely,



Jody S. Sundsted
Power Marketing Manager

Enclosures (1)