



MINUTES OF THE  
NORTHERN TIER STEERING COMMITTEE

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A meeting of the Northern Tier Transmission Group (“NTTG”) Steering Committee was held in Salt Lake City, Utah on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. (MPT). Participation via web and phone conference was also available.

The following members and designated alternates were present at the meeting, constituted a quorum and did not object to notice:

Frank Afranji, (proxy for Bill Nicholson), Portland General Electric,  
David Angell, (proxy for Adam Richins), Idaho Power Company  
Michele Beck, Utah Office of Consumer Services,  
Ray Brush, NTTG Utility Co-Chair/NorthWestern Energy Corporation,  
David Clark, NTTG State Vice-Chair/Utah Public Service Commission,  
Marshall Empey, UAMPS,  
Maury Galbraith, (proxy for John Savage), Public Utility Commission of Oregon,  
Travis Kavulla, NTTG State Co-Chair /Montana Public Service Commission,  
Larry Nordell, Montana Consumer Counsel,  
Marsha Smith, Idaho Public Utilities Commission,  
Rick Vail, NTTG Utility Vice-Chair, PacifiCorp, and  
Curt Winterfeld, Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bill Russell, Wyoming Public Service Commission was absent and did not designate a proxy.

The following guests were present:

Rich Bayless, Northern Tier Transmission Group,  
Johanna Bell, Idaho Public Utilities Commission,  
Gil Coulam, Northern Tier Transmission Group,  
Brian Fritz, PacifiCorp,  
Sharon Helms, Northern Tier Transmission Group,  
John Leland, Northwestern Energy,  
Craig Quist, PacifiCorp,

Bela Vestag, Utah Office of Consumer Services, and  
Amy Wachslicht, Northern Tier Transmission Group.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved. A motion by Travis Kavulla to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2014 NTTG Steering Committee was seconded by Frank Afranji and **approved**. The minutes will be posted on Northern Tier's website.

The resolutions set forth below were presented for consideration. Following a formal presentation and after thorough discussion, on motion duly made and seconded, the following resolutions were adopted:

#### **RESOLUTION**

##### **NTTG 2014-2105 Study Plan Approval**

RESOLVED: That the NTTG Steering Committee approves the NTTG 2014-2015 Biennial Study Plan, including the transmission needs driven by Public Policy Requirements for the Regional Transmission Plan and transmission needs driven by Public Policy Considerations for additional study analysis. A motion by Frank Afranji was seconded by Commissioner Travis Kavulla. The motion was ADOPTED by unanimous vote of the members present.

#### **RESOLUTION**

##### **Support for the Revised NTTG Processes and Attachment K Revisions for Order No. 1000**

##### **Compliance**

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the NTTG Steering Committee supports and endorses the changes to the NTTG regional transmission planning and cost allocation processes as set forth in each of the NTTG Transmission Providers 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Order No. 1000 Attachment K and filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on June 13, 2014. A motion by Larry Nordell was seconded by Commissioner Travis Kavulla. The motion was ADOPTED by unanimous vote of the members present.

#### **REPORT**

##### **111(d) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Proposed Regulation Review and potential NTTG Comments**

Commissioner Travis Kavulla led a discussion on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing power generation facilities explaining that the rule does not put a cap on total carbon emissions, rather sets targets for the rate of carbon emissions per unit of power generated in a state, resulting in considerably different emissions reduction targets for each state. Commissioner Kavulla described the building blocks that the EPA

developed to identify the best system of emission reduction and pointed out that in the ruling the EPA has incorrectly assumed that NTTG is responsible for reliable operations of the system and can implement solutions such as capacity markets and transmission upgrades to preserve resource adequacy and ensure the continued reliable operations of the Grid.

Commissioner Kavulla advocated for the allocation of NTTG and utility staff time to evaluate the potential transmission affects from the ruling, or at a minimum, NTTG should file formal comments describing the services NTTG does and does not provide for the region.

After thorough discussion, members directed Sharon Helms to draft comments for Steering Committee's review describing NTTG's roles and functions in relation to transmission planning and system operations, and in particular to draw a distinction between the responsibilities of a planning region and those of a Regional Transmission Organization.

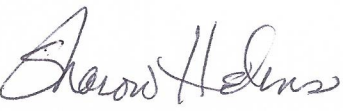
**Stakeholder Comment Period**


The floor was opened to the public for comment and none were received.


**Round Table/Other Business**

The next NTTG Steering Committee meeting will be in September, 2014. Sharon Helms will coordinate with members to confirm the specific date and location.

There being no further action, the meeting adjourned.

By:   
Sharon Helms, NTTG Project Manager

  
Approved:  
Ray Brush, NTTG Utility Co-Chair

  
Approved:  
Travis Kavulla, NTTG State Co-Chair