

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814Main website: www.energy.ca.gov

In the matter of:)	Docket No. 15-RETI-02
)	
<i>California Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0</i>)	NOTICE OF WORKSHOP RE:
)	Renewable Energy Transmission
)	Initiative 2.0

Notice of Joint Agency Workshop to Introduce the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0

The California Energy Commission will jointly conduct a workshop with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to introduce the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) 2.0 and receive public input on the project goals and process. This workshop will give the public and stakeholders an opportunity to learn about the purpose, goals and work that will be considered for this initiative.

Chair Robert B. Weisenmiller and Commissioners Karen Douglas and Janea Scott will conduct the meeting jointly with CPUC President Michael Picker. Other Commissioners of the Energy Commission and the CPUC may also attend and participate in the workshop. The workshop will be held:

Thursday, September 10, 2015

9:30 a.m.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street

First Floor, Arthur Rosenfeld Hearing Room

Sacramento, California

(Wheelchair Accessible)

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Background

The Governor's Executive Order B-30-15 commits California to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and further reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. An important pillar to achieving this GHG reduction goal is Governor Brown's call for an increased renewable target of 50 percent by 2030.

These recent changes to energy policy goals, along with improved generation and demand-side technologies, evolving challenges to integrating new intermittent generation, and the need to maintain electricity system reliability, require periodic updates for renewed, broad, and coordinated attention to transmission planning.

In 2007, California faced similar challenges as the state implemented a 20 percent renewable portfolio standard (RPS), while looking forward to statewide renewable energy goals of 33 percent. One important process that addressed these challenges was the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative. The 2008 RETI effort was created as a non-regulatory statewide planning process to identify the transmission projects needed to develop the renewable generation required to meet the 33 percent of electric retail sales mandate. RETI was an open and transparent collaborative process with the active participation of over 30 stakeholders that included renewable energy project developers, environmental groups, investor- and publicly-owned utilities, and federal governmental agencies. Using science-driven findings, RETI identified the new transmission lines needed to interconnect the high quality renewable projects to load basins.

In addition to the RETI process, the Energy Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service signed a memorandum of understanding formalizing the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT), for the purpose of expediting the development of renewable energy resources in the California Desert Region to meet the state's renewable goals. These agencies developed the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), a landscape-scale, multi-agency, science-based joint environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) covering 22.5 million acres in California's desert. The purpose of the DRECP is to facilitate the development of renewable energy generation and related transmission projects while also conserving important biological and natural resources. Since the planning activities of counties in the DRECP area are critical to meeting the state's renewable energy and conservation goals, REAT agencies are also engaged in an alignment effort with local government jurisdictions to incorporate a tailored, county-by-county approach into the DRECP.

The lessons of past collaborations have been incorporated into a successful planning alignment process between the Energy Commission, CPUC, and California ISO for evaluating and approving new transmission system projects. To date, the transmission projects that are needed to support achievement of California's 33 percent RPS are already approved or progressing through the California Public Utilities Commission approval process. A record number of new renewable generation projects have been built in California, now totaling over 21,000 MW of generation capacity. There are also over 13,000 MW of proposed renewable generation projects that have permits to build in California. Approximately 25 percent of California's electricity sales are now served by renewable generation and California is on track to not only meet, but exceed the 33 percent RPS goals by 2020.

There are lessons from the RETI process, the DRECP efforts, other energy planning processes, and scientific studies that have brought important insights to the

environmental and operational implications of the evolving regional electricity system. The Energy Commission, CPUC, and the California ISO have thereby determined the need for a RETI 2.0 process to consider a new set of analytical perspectives for future transmission planning evaluations.

Agenda

The goal of this workshop is to begin to identify the goals, process, and timeline for the RETI 2.0 initiative. Renewable energy stakeholders from state and local energy, land use, environmental, economic and business, and other interests are encouraged to attend. A specific agenda will be posted prior to the workshop. Topics on the agenda include, but are not limited to:

- RETI 2.0 goals and planning scope
- Timeline for the RETI 2.0 process
- Public process
- Stakeholder involvement in developing potential scenarios
- Current energy agency proceedings and stakeholder processes that may inform the RETI 2.0 process
- Local government perspectives

Public Comment

Oral comments: The Energy Commission and CPUC will accept oral comments during the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes and will become part of the public record for this stakeholder process.

Written comments (Gov. Code, §11346.5(a)(15)): **Written comments should be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on September 24, 2015.** Please submit comments to the Energy Commission using the Energy Commission's e-commenting feature by going to the RETI 2.0 webpage <http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/> and click on the "Submit eComment" link. A full name, e-mail address, comment title, and either a comment or an attached document (.doc, docx, or .pdf format) is mandatory. After a challenge-response test used by the system to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button to submit the comment to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit.

Please note that written comments, attachments, and associated contact information included within the written comments and attachments (e.g., your address, phone, e-mail, etc.) become part of the viewable public record. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and other search engines. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and other search engines.

You are encouraged to use the electronic commenting system, described above, to submit comments. If you are unable to submit electronically, a paper copy of your comments may be sent to:

Docket Unit
California Energy Commission
Dockets No. 15-RETI-02
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Or e-mailing them to: DOCKET@energy.ca.gov

If you choose not to use the electronic filing system, please include the Docket Number 15-RETI-02 on any e-mailed or written comments. Comments may be e-mailed to docket@energy.ca.gov. Written comments will also be accepted at the workshop. However, the Energy Commission may not have time to review them before the conclusion of the workshop.

Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser's Office by e-mail at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489 (toll free at (800) 822-6228).

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz by e-mail at Lou.Quiroz@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance of the meeting.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

If you have questions on the subject matter of this meeting, please contact Al Alvarado by e-mail at Al.Alvarado@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4749.

The service list for the stakeholder process is handled electronically. Notices and documents for this proceeding are posted to the Energy Commission website. When new information is posted, an e-mail will be sent to those on the energy policy e-mail list server. We encourage those who are interested in receiving these notices to sign up for the list server through the website at www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/.

Remote Attendance

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Availability of Documents

Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available online at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/>

DATE: August 28, 2015



ROBERT B. WEISENMILLER, Chair
California Energy Commission



KAREN DOUGLAS, Commissioner
California Energy Commission

Mail Lists: energy policy, transmission, renewables, DRECP, RETI, electricity