

DOCKETED

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Description:	Letter to Tribal Leader
Filer:	Sabrina Savala
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



September 1, 2015

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

Dear Tribal Leader,

The California Energy Commission, consistent with its tribal consultation policy, wishes to extend outreach to tribes interested in gaining information concerning the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) 2.0.

The California Energy Commission will jointly conduct a workshop with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to introduce the RETI 2.0 and receive public input. This workshop will give the public and stakeholders an opportunity to learn about the purpose, goals, timeline and work that will be considered for this initiative. Opportunity for public comment will be provided to workshop participants, and as further detailed in an enclosure to this letter.

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)

Remote Access Available by Computer or Phone via WebEx™
Please see Enclosed Instructions or go to the workshop notice at
www.energy.ca.gov/reti.

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 renewable projects to load basins.

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, 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.

Should you have further questions concerning the upcoming workshop please contact Thomas Gates by email at thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 654-5008.

Sincerely,



Roger E. Johnson
Deputy Director, Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection
Tribal Liaison

Encl:
Public Comment
WebEx Instructions

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: Written comments should be submitted to the Dockets Unit by 4:00 p.m. on September 24, 2015. All written comments will become part of the public record.

The Energy Commission encourages the use of its new electronic commenting system, but written comments may also be submitted by handing them directly to the Public Adviser, by e-mailing them to the Dockets Office, or by U.S. Mail to:

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

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.

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

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/.

To join a Meeting Via WebEx

You may participate in this meeting through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will be webcast, and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

VIA COMPUTER: Go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: 923 918 313. When prompted, enter your name and the following meeting password: **meeting@8**

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If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at 1-866-229-3239.

Availability of Documents

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