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California Energy Commission
Joint IEPR/Siting Committee Workshop

Transmission Planning Information and Policy Actions

May 4, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.

Call-in Number: **1-888-566-5914**, Passcode: **IEPR**, Call leader: **Lynette Green**

AGENDA

9:00 Introduction

Suzanne Korosec, IEPR Lead

9:10 Opening Comments

Commissioner Jeffrey Byron

Vice Chair James Boyd

Chairman Karen Douglas

9:20 Development Steps for 2009 Strategic Transmission Investment Plan

Judy Grau, Strategic Transmission Planning Office

9:35 Transmission Forms & Instructions Responses

Mark Hesters, Strategic Transmission Planning Office

Chris Tooker, Engineering & Corridor Designation Office

10:15 Status of California Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative Phase 2 and Beyond

Rich Ferguson, Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies

Carl Zichella, Sierra Club

Dariush Shirmohammadi, Transmission Advisor for the California Wind Energy Association

10:55 Overview of the 2009 and 2010 ISO Transmission Plans

Paul Didsayabutra, California Independent System Operator

11:15 Regional Transmission Planning Initiatives and Projects

Grace Anderson, Strategic Transmission Planning Office

Richard Bayless, Northern Tier Transmission Group

Bill Chamberlain, Chief Counsel

Lunch Break (approx. 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.)

Roundtable panel discussions

Session #1- Facilitating Coordinated Transmission Planning to Achieve the State's Renewable Policy Goals (Moderator – Chuck Najarian) **1:00 to 3:00 pm**

Transmission planning in California is being undertaken in several forums. The California ISO engages in an annual transmission planning process for California's investor-owned utilities; investor-owned and publicly owned utilities (IOUs and POU) develop transmission plans to support their service territories; and the informal RETI Stakeholder Collaborative is developing a conceptual transmission plan for renewables that will inform these processes.

Questions for Session #1 Panelists:

1. Are the existing transmission planning processes the most effective means for achieving the state's renewable energy goals?
2. Would a coordinated statewide transmission planning process be more effective in achieving the state's renewable goals?
3. What are the key elements of a statewide plan?
4. What is the best time horizon for a statewide plan?
5. Are joint IOU/POU transmission projects critical to a statewide plan?
6. What is the best forum for statewide planning?
7. What actions are necessary to implement a statewide transmission planning process and the resulting statewide plan?

Panelists:

- a. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Jim Caldwell) - invited
- b. Imperial Irrigation District (Juan Carlos Sandoval)
- c. Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Jim Shetler)
- d. Pacific Gas & Electric (Kevin Dasso)
- e. Southern California Edison (Patricia Arons)
- f. San Diego Gas & Electric (Linda Brown)
- g. California Independent System Operator (Gary DeShazo)
- h. California Public Utilities Commission (Nancy Ryan)

Session #1 Stakeholder Questions and Feedback Directed to Panelists

Confirmed participants: Johanna Wald (Natural Resources Defense Council), Arthur Haubenstock (BrightSource Energy), Dariush Shirmohammadi (Transmission Advisor for the California Wind Energy Association), Carl Zichella (Sierra Club), Gary Munsterman (Air Force Western Regional Environmental Office)

Session #1 Closing Statements from Panelists

Session #2 – Valuing Environmental Decisions in Transmission Planning and Permitting via a Programmatic Approach (Moderator – Roger Johnson) **3:00 to 4:00 pm**

The Energy Commission's Strategic Transmission Investment Plan and Transmission Corridor Designation program are two public processes in a programmatic approach to providing a link between transmission planning decisions and transmission permitting. The Strategic Transmission Investment Plan provides the opportunity for transmission owners and the Energy Commission to identify future transmission needs to be vetted with local agencies and the public. A transmission line identified in the Strategic Transmission Investment Plan could benefit from a corridor designation that results in expedited permitting if the Program Environmental Impact Report is tiered-off of by the permitting agency and the local concerns were addressed in the designation process.

Questions for Session #2 Panelists:

1. What do the panel members see as the benefits and current impediments to proposing transmission projects for potential future corridor designation, and what are some recommended solutions to any impediments?
 - a. Will corridor designation provide value?
 - b. Is cost reimbursement an issue?
 - c. Is the length of time land can be held for future use an issue?
2. How could a Corridor Designation Program Environmental Impact Report be most useful for future permitting activities? Would it help if the Energy Commission and/or transmission owner reached out to state and local agencies to collaborate on the identification of the alternatives and scope of analysis for the Program Environmental Impact Report?
3. What actions could be taken to better preserve designated corridors for their intended use?

Panelists:

- a. Energy Commission Corridor Designation Program (Roger Johnson)
- b. California Public Utilities Commission (Chloe Luikins)
- c. Imperial County (Jurg Hueberger) – invited
- d. Imperial Irrigation District (Juan Carlos Sandoval) - invited
- e. Southern California Edison (Patricia Arons)

Public Comments on Session #2

4:00 General Public Comments

Adjourn