

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Transmission Planning Processes Under Order No. 890

Docket No. AD09-8-000

NOTICE ANNOUNCING PANELISTS AND FINAL AGENDA FOR THE
SEPTEMBER 3, 2009 TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

(August 26, 2009)

On June 30, 2009, the Commission issued a notice scheduling staff technical conferences to examine the transmission planning processes that are being conducted pursuant to Order No. 890.¹ As stated in the June 30 notice, these technical conferences are intended to meet the Commission's commitment that its staff would conduct an assessment of the Order No. 890 transmission planning processes.

On August 3, 2009, the Commission issued a supplemental notice with an agenda providing details on the topics that will be discussed on the panels at each of the three conferences as well as the topics panelists should be prepared to address. The August 3 notice also reiterated that those wishing to participate as panelists should submit a request form describing the topic(s) they wish to address. Those wishing to attend each conference were also asked to complete a registration form. The August 3 notice stated that a final notice with a list of the panelists for each conference would be issued in advance of the conferences. On August 7, 2009, the Commission issued an errata notice shortening the due date for all requests from those wishing to participate as a panelist at any of the three technical conferences to Thursday, August 13, 2009.

The attached panelist list contains the panelists chosen for the September 3, 2009 Phoenix, Arizona technical conference to be held at:

Phoenix Airport Marriott
1101 North 44th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85008
(800) 228-9290

If they have not already done so, those that plan to attend the Phoenix conference should submit the registration form, located at: <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/trans-09-03-form.asp>²

¹ *Preventing Undue Discrimination and Preference in Transmission Service*, Order No. 890, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,241, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 890-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,261 (2007), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 890-B, 123 FERC ¶ 61,299 (2008), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 890-C, 126 FERC ¶ 61,228 (2009).

² The Phoenix conference will address transmission planning for entities located within the ColumbiaGrid, Northern Tier Transmission Group, WestConnect, and CAISO footprints, and other

Panelists will provide introductory remarks to begin the discussion of each topic identified in the August 3 notice. The purpose of the panelists is to introduce the topics of discussion, and Staff intends to facilitate a constructive dialogue among all the attendees involved in the planning process and will actively seek to incorporate input from non-panelists and audience members into that dialogue. We strongly encourage all attendees to actively participate in the conference.

For further information about this conference, please contact:

Zeny Magos
Office of Energy Market Regulation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8244
zeny.magos@ferc.gov

Christopher Thomas
Office of Energy Market Regulation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8412
christopher.thomas@ferc.gov

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

entities in the WECC region that are not a part of any of these subregional groups. In the event a transmission provider is uncertain as to which technical conference is the appropriate forum for discussion of its planning process, such transmission providers should contact Commission staff in advance to discuss the matter. Lastly, a comment date will be set at a later date allowing for the filing of post-conference comments.



Regional Technical Conferences Assessing the Order No. 890 Planning Processes

Docket No. AD09-8-000

**Panelist List and Final Agenda
for the Phoenix, Arizona Technical Conference
September 3, 2009**

9:00 am to 10:45 am Panel 1 – Feedback on Current Planning Processes

In this session, Commission staff seeks information on the effectiveness of the current planning processes and how the current planning processes are working at the local, sub-regional and regional levels. Staff will lead the panel in a discussion of the following topics. Panelists should be prepared to address each topic and discuss actual experiences under the existing transmission planning processes.

- Are the current Order No. 890 transmission planning processes, whether relying on reliability or market-driven structures, effective in preventing opportunities for undue discrimination in transmission planning and expansion?
- Is there robust participation by stakeholders from all sectors in the transmission planning process? Is diverse stakeholder participation occurring at all levels of the planning process (i.e., local, sub-regional and regional)? If not, why?
- Are there factors that have impeded the planning efforts? If so, what are they?
- Is there sufficient transparency? Are the data and information exchange needs of stakeholders being met?
- What improvements to the Order No. 890 transmission planning processes should be considered?

Panelists:

- The Honorable Kristin Mayes – Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission
- David “Kip” Sikes - Transmission Policy & Development Manager, Idaho Power Company
- Ronald Lehr – American Wind Energy Association and on behalf of Interwest Energy Alliance and Western Grid Group
- Robert Smith – Director, Asset Management and Planning Department, Arizona Public Service Company
- Gary DeShazo– Director, Regional Transmission North, California ISO
- Lawrence Willick – Senior Vice President, LS Power Transmission, LLC

10:45 am to 11:00 am Break

11:00 am to 12:30 pm Panel 2 – Regional and Inter-regional Planning

In this session, Commission staff seeks information on the development of regional and inter-regional transmission plans. Staff will lead the panel in a discussion of the following topics. Panelists should be prepared to address each topic and discuss actual experiences under existing transmission planning processes.

- Are existing transmission planning processes adequate to evaluate transmission investments with benefits that extend across multiple planning regions?
- Should there be broader coordination in the development of transmission plans? If so, what roles would individual public utilities and existing or new planning organizations play in this broader coordination?
- How are reliability impact studies aligned with economic-based evaluations of sub-regional or regional projects? If not aligned, how can reliability assessments and economic evaluations be aligned in order to better understand the impact of sub-regional and regional projects?
- How should merchant transmission projects be treated for purposes of regional transmission planning? For example, should they be required to participate in the planning process and, if so, at what point must they engage in the planning process?
- Should prospective transmission developers coordinate their projects in the interest of “right-sizing” facilities to make the best use of available corridors and minimize environmental impacts? If so, what, if any, process should govern the selection of competing sub-regional or regional projects?
- What improvements are necessary to facilitate planning between regional planning entities?
- What planning processes are needed to better integrate renewable resources into the system? How do the planning processes consider ancillary services that are

necessary to accommodate renewables (e.g., regional deliverability and reliability needs)?

Panelists:

- The Honorable Dian Grueneich – Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
- Brian Silverstein - Senior Vice President Transmission Services, Bonneville Power Administration
- Stephen Metague –Sr. Director, Electric Transmission Rates Dept., Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- Jerry Smith – K.R. Saline & Associates on behalf of WestConnect
- Bradley Nickell – Renewable Integration and Planning Director, Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)
- Sean Gallagher – Vice President of Market Strategy and Regulatory Affairs, Tessera Solar

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch Break

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Panel 3 – Cost Allocation

In this session, Commission staff seeks information on the effectiveness of the existing cost allocation methods currently used by transmission providers, and seeks comment on alternative cost allocation methods. Staff will lead the panel in a discussion of the following topics. Panelists should be prepared to address each topic and discuss actual experiences under existing transmission planning processes.

- Are there regional cost allocation methodologies outside RTOs, and broader regional cost allocation within RTOs, that should be considered or established? If so, how should this be done? What considerations should be used?
- Should processes be established to help stakeholders address cost allocation matters over larger geographic regions? Are there opportunities for stakeholders to address cost allocation matters by tariff or contract?
- Should each transmission provider hold an open season solicitation of interest for needed transmission projects identified through the transmission planning process in order to assist in cost allocation determinations? Should identified non-transmission alternatives also be held to an open season solicitation?

Panelists:

- Jeff Miller – Vice President and Manager of Planning, ColumbiaGrid

- Richard Bayless – Director, Technical Activities, Northern Tier Transmission Group
- Teresa Mogensen – Director, Transmission Asset Management & Business Relations, Xcel Energy
- Robert Kondziolka – Manager, Transmission Planning, Salt River Project on behalf of WestConnect
- Jan Smutny-Jones – Executive Director, Independent Energy Producers Association (IEP), on behalf of IEP and the Independent Power Producers Coalition - West

3:00 pm to 3:15 pm Break

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm Panel 4 – Examining Coordination and Comparability

In this session, Commission staff seeks information on the effectiveness of coordination and open communication among transmission providers, their transmission-providing neighbors, affected state authorities, customers and other stakeholders. Commission staff also seeks information about the comparability in treatment between the transmission provider and stakeholders, as well as among various types of resources. Staff will lead the panel in a discussion of the following topics. Panelists should be prepared to address each topic and discuss actual experiences under existing transmission planning processes.

- Are all resources (transmission, generation, and demand resources) treated comparably in the transmission planning process? If not, what reforms are necessary to ensure that this occurs?
- How responsive are transmission providers to stakeholder needs, concerns or suggestions?
- What impact does a right of first refusal for incumbent transmission owners have on transmission development and cost allocation methods?
- How are interconnection queue processes coordinated with transmission planning studies? Are reforms needed to align the interconnection queue study process with the local, sub-regional and regional planning processes? If so, in what way(s) can these processes be aligned? Are the transmission planning processes addressing causes of interconnection queuing problems?³
- Do existing transmission planning processes incorporate adequate coordination with respect to satisfying state policies such as renewable portfolio standards and efficiency standards?

³ See, e.g., *Interconnection Queuing Practices*, 122 FERC ¶ 61,252, at P 6 (2008).

- How do the planning processes ensure that systems are planned to operate as efficiently as possible? To what degree are advanced transmission technologies (§1223 EAct 2005) considered in the planning process?

Panelists:

- Jim Avery - Senior Vice President-Power Supply, San Diego Gas and Electric
- Tom Wray - Manager of Generation and Transmission, Southwestern Power and Project Manager for SunZia Southwest Transmission Project
- Brian Whalen – Director, Transmission System Planning, NV Energy
- Karen Edson – Vice President, External Affairs, California ISO
- Blaine Stewart P.E. – Magnum Energy LLC, and on behalf of Coalition to Advance Renewable Energy through Bulk Storage (CAREBS)
- Scott Cauchois – Chair, WECC Transmission Expansion Policy Planning Committee (TEPPC)
- Ren Orans – Managing Partner, E3

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Wrap-up