

Betty Ann Kane, Vice President
Eastern Interconnection States Planning Council (EISPC)
March 11, 2015
FERC Technical Conference 111(d)

What is EISPC?

Since 2009, the National Association of Regulatory utility Commissioners (NARUC) has used funding from the US Department of Energy to support the Eastern Interconnection States Planning Council (EISPC). EISPC provides a forum for the 39 states, the District of Columbia, the City of New Orleans, and 6 Canadian provinces that compose the Eastern Interconnection to discuss and analyze immediate and long-term issues of mutual concern. The EISPC forum, because it requires consensus, serves as an “honest broker” for objective public policy analysis with an emphasis on collaboration and advancing the analytical tools available to states. There are two representatives per state including one commissioner and a designee of the Governor. In addition to convening state policymakers EISPC provides training and research that informs states and stakeholders on electricity policy including transmission planning, generation issues, and demand-side resources.

Since its inception in 2009, EISPC has served to provide an interface with the RTOs and non-RTO planning authorities in the Eastern Interconnection. Increasingly EISPC’s work serves to bridge the States, not only with the traditional EISPC member groups - PUC and governor’s representatives – but consumer advocates, air regulators, and energy offices. Interconnection-wide planning performed under the original recovery-act funded project produced a huge amount of data that has since been mined by EISPC to understand the potential ways that this planning is affected by - and affects – the range of responses to the Clean Power Plan.

Key research undertaken by EISPC has included studies exploring what the future holds for specific supply resources like gas, coal, and nuclear generation. Our studies and white papers also dig into the issues of gas-electric interdependencies and infrastructure needs for pipelines, the scale of demand-side resources, and the interaction of different market and regulatory regimes under different scenarios. These studies may be important intellectual assets that help inform the choices available to States in the East.

Our relevant studies and white papers include:

- State by State assessment of Demand Side Resources
- Current and Future Direction of the Coal Industry
- Current and Future Direction of the Nuclear Industry
- Electric and Natural Gas Interdependencies and Infrastructure Requirements, and
- Planning papers focusing on topics like cooptimization, probabilistic risk assessment, and other issues.

EISPC research is available online at www.NARUC.org/EISPC. Our meetings – including several sessions on multistate issues arising from the clean power plan – are webcast and recorded, and these recordings are also available at this website. We also have developed an energy zones mapping tool. This web-based GIS tool includes nine (9) clean energy resource categories and can be used to locate areas with high suitability for clean power generation, transmission, and other infrastructure in the Eastern Interconnection. It includes a searchable energy policy and regulations database and is available online at <http://eispctools.anl.gov>.

EISPC has developed a workgroup that includes EISPC members and air regulators from the States. The group is compiling a number of resources for States to help communications, coordination, and awareness on 111d. This workgroup is generating three resources for States to lower the barrier for states to talk to each other by giving them sample documents and other resources to modify and start with, including a sample MOU that states can use to convene, coordinate, and communicate ; our state legislative language checklist to help agencies understand their authorities in this area; and a writing guide that helps states walk through a multi-state process as they attempt to explore their mutual opportunities and challenges. In keeping with EISPC's *modus operandi*, the effort and its products are voluntary and do not imply endorsement of any particular approach or stance regarding the clean power plan.

EISPC is also acting as a clearinghouse for information sharing about actions being taken by the states, and about the modeling and other resources being developed by the marketplace of ideas. EISPC's mission to serve the states means it will remain open for future opportunities to convene the states, provide future trainings, and commission essential research.

More information about EISPC and its activities is available online at www.naruc.org/eispc.