

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

Action Points 2004 Winter Meeting, Redmond WA November 12, 2004

PNWER Energy II Working Group

In dealing with Renewable Energy development, state/provinces and legislators should:

1. Develop principle-based common definitions of renewable resources, such as green, clean, and alternative. It would be helpful if there were consensus across the region on these definitions.
2. Work toward developing a regional consensus on the goals and objectives for providing incentives for renewable energy as well as on addressing the challenges for greater renewable energy portfolio development in the region.
3. Enlist assistance of groups such as Center for Research Solution and Green E Label to deal with these issues and help identify the challenges and benefits of renewable energy policies and common definitions.

Center for Research Solutions: National and international programs that promote clean and efficient energy use, encourage sustainable economic growth, and help preserve the environment for present and future generations. T: 415.561.2100, mlehman@resource-solutions.org
<http://www.resource-solutions.org/>

Green-E: Renewable Electricity Certification Program. The **Green-e label** means that at least half of the electricity comes from preferred renewable resources, including solar, wind, geothermal, biomass... <http://www.green-e.org/>

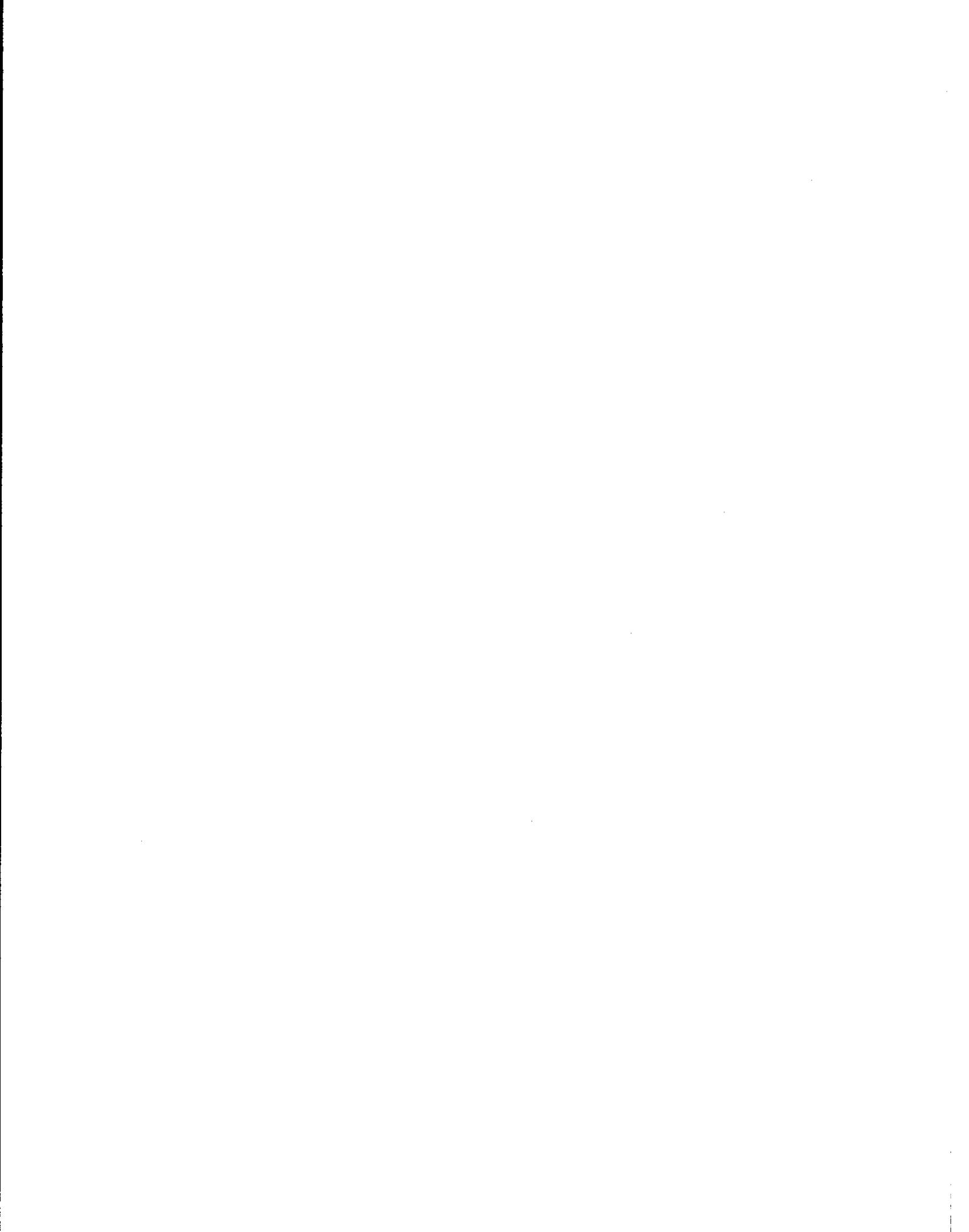
To further develop renewable policies integration of Hydroelectric Resources Storage with Wind Resources is needed. A net metering policy could provide additional incentive for renewable resource development at the end user's location.

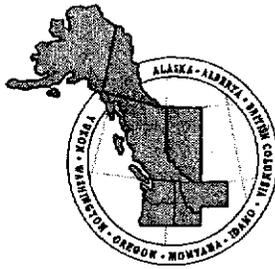
Transmission Siting:

The jurisdictions need to give higher priority to and share the best practices in developing a multi-jurisdictional siting of transmission.

PNWER should continue to facilitate the Pacific Northwest Legislative Energy Chair Task Force and hold regular conference calls, with one to be organized before the Winter Sessions begin. Representative George Eskridge will chair the task force, and the conference calls. Representative Eskridge asked that we include NCSL's Mathew Brown on the conference calls.

PNWER should also support the WGA's approach to reliability standards.





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Transmission Siting Legislation:

PNWER to share sample legislation with energy chairs in the Energy Legislative Chair task force including:

Infrastructure Authority Legislation (recently passed in July 04 in Wyoming and may be considered by Montana) (<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/titles/title37/c05a03.htm>) provides enabling legislation for an authority to develop, maintain and operate the necessary improvements for the transmission grid within the state and beyond the state borders. This includes the authorization to issue up to \$1 Billion in bonds.

The working group will develop a resolution in support of Federal Legislation that would allow tax-exemption for transmission infrastructure.

Regional Transmission Siting:

After much discussion and presentations from Grid West (<http://www.rto-west.com/>), and NTAC (Northwest Transmission Assessment Committee) (<http://209.221.152.82/ntac/>), and the NCSL Energy Committee (National Conference of State Legislators) (Matthew Brown) (<http://www.ncsl.org/standcomm/scenergy/scenergy.htm>), the working group identified several suggestions that state and provincial legislators should consider in answer to the question, "What can states and provincial legislators do?" Some of these recommendations are further defined in NCSL's "Electricity Transmission Primer".

- 1) **Assign responsibilities for transmission siting approval to one state agency.**
State agencies have responsibility to approve transmission siting proposals. State policymakers can assign the siting authority to one agency or to a siting board, which can be given the ability to issue all permits, to enforce timelines on siting boards required to issue permits. The agency can also establish a single application to speed up the process.
- 2) **Enable state siting authorities** to collaborate with comparable agencies in other states to review projects that cross state lines.
- 3) **Set a statutory limit for the time allowed** to consider a transmission siting application.
- 4) **Establish clear and complete filing requirements for siting proceedings.**

A thorough set of guidelines for the type of information to be included in a siting application will speed the siting process, such as an early-stage review of the proposed project, as in Oregon's siting process.

- 5) **Identify important scenic, ecological, environmental and other resources.** Policymakers can direct appropriate state and local agencies to identify key scenic, ecological and environmental resources. With this information, transmission companies can avoid these areas or mitigate the visual effects of their proposals if these areas can't be avoided. An important and difficult element of this task is to develop criteria to guide the process of identifying important scenic resources.
- 6) **Define considerations that can be evaluated and discussed in a transmission siting case.** This will help ensure that issues of public interest are sufficiently addressed.
- 7) **Integrate public input into consideration of siting proposals.** In some siting cases, a proposal from a transmission company appears to the public to come from nowhere. As a result, the public may not understand the need for any facility or appreciate why a particular solution was chosen. State officials have several options: A) require transmission companies to report to customers and to the state public utility commission regularly about possible transmission system needs. Focusing outreach and education efforts on state and local leaders can be especially valuable. B) Ensure that any regional state committee works with stakeholders to make regular periodic assessments of need. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council has just published its 20 year forecast: <http://www.nwppc.org/> C) Once hearings are planned, ensure that at least some are held in locations that are accessible to communities where the transmission lines are being proposed.
- 8) **Coordinate with federal agencies.** It may be helpful for state and federal agencies to sign a memorandum of understanding that defines means of collaboration between the two levels of government.
- 9) **Encourage regional coordination and share legislative language.**
- 10) **An economic framework should be developed for analyzing options.**