

**More than Transmission: Exploring  
Regional Approaches to Electricity  
Resource Planning for the Southeast**

November 19, 2008

Noon-4:00 PM

Sheraton New Orleans



**NATIONAL COUNCIL  
ON ELECTRICITY POLICY**

*The National Council on Electricity Policy's executive dialogue on regional electricity planning in the southeast is the first in a series of workshops designed to identify strategies for maximizing regional electricity resources through interstate and intrastate cooperation. The goal of the dialogue is to develop a preliminary list of actions to enable greater electricity and environmental coordination in the southeast. Dialogue participants represent state energy agencies, utility and environmental regulators, governors' staff and legislative bodies involved in electricity system planning.*

**Preliminary Agenda**

**12:00-12:15 Welcome, Purpose and Expected Outcomes**

Commissioner Jeanne Fox  
Chair of the National Council on Electricity Policy  
President of the NJ Board of Public Utilities

**12:15-12:45 Regional Resource Planning and How Might it Function in the Southeast**

Doug Larsen (Invited)  
Executive Director  
Western State Interstate Energy Board

In many areas of the United State regional resource planning is being implemented in one form or another. Much of the regional electricity planning process in Texas, much of the Midwest and the northeast is coordinated through State, utility and RTO organizations. In addition, many of these States do not have traditionally regulated utilities. The Southeast and the West are similar in that they both lack a formal RTO structure and they are characterized by traditionally regulated, vertically integrated electric utilities. This session will provide a basic overview of the experiences and lessons learned regarding the western interstate electricity planning process. Participants will gain a better understanding how regional electricity planning could be enhanced in the southeast.

Presentation will address:

- Lessons learned from western interstate electricity planning
- Informal versus formal approaches to regional planning
- How regional planning can maximize generation resources
- Regional transmission planning
- How energy efficiency/demand side management can be enhanced through regional planning
- How state integrated resource planning can enable broader regional electricity planning

**12:45-2:15 Facilitated Discussion: Opportunities and Barriers to Regional Resource Planning in the Southeast**

Rich Sedano  
Member of the NCEP Executive Secretariat  
Regulatory Assistance Project

*This session is a brainstorming discussion. The facilitator will help participants think creatively about regional resource planning from the perspective of state policy makers and policy implementers; from the perspective of economic versus environmental regulators; and from the perspective of executive branch versus legislative branch officials. Session participants will learn from others the potential opportunities and barriers associated with a comprehensive regional electricity planning process.*

Based on facilitated priorities, participants may discuss:

- Regional planning's potential impact on demand growth
- Using regional planning to mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Meeting future RPS requirements through interstate coordination
- Leveraging regional planning to maximize transmission capacity
- Regional planning's impact on utility cost recovery practices
- Federal utilities, investor-owned utilities, and rural cooperatives: coordination practicalities
- Frameworks for proactive interstate and intrastate collaboration
- Coordinating energy and environmental regulatory approaches to enhance regional electricity planning
- Coordinating generation planning to maximize regional water resources

**2:15 – 2:30 Break**

**2:30 – 2:45 Presentation: Do States Have the Legal Authority to Act Regionally?**

Scott Hempling (Invited)  
Executive Director  
National Regulatory Research Institute

*A formal approach to regional electricity planning will require regulatory and legislative coordination. But is this type of coordination legally viable? Does Congress need to approval regional coordination based on the interstate commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution? Can regional compacts work and where have they been successful? During this session, Scott Hempling will explore the legal issues associated with formal regional planning and examine various models for both formal and informal regional coordination.*

**2:45 – 3:45      Facilitated Discussion: Identifying Preliminary Actions to Enhance Regional Electricity Planning and Coordination in the Southeast**

Matthew Brown  
Member of the NCEP Executive Secretariat  
InterEnergy Solutions

*During this facilitated session, participants will identify short-term steps that will enable greater regional collaboration on electricity planning. Actions will be grouped in terms of legislative, regulatory (electricity and environmental), administrative and executive branch activities.*

Group may also want to consider:

- Examining best practices from other regions
- Establishing model legislation to enable greater inter-state dialogue
- Developing an informal process to coordinate State policies and procedures

**3:45 – 4:00      Wrap Up and Adjourn**

*An NCEP representative will recap the action items from each facilitated discussion. In addition, the NCEP representative will invite participants to become founding members of NCEP's Southeast Regional Electricity Advisory Committee (SREAC). This committee will assist state officials identify opportunities for interstate and intrastate cooperation on regional electricity policy issues. Inaugural members will provide committee leadership while helping to define the purpose, goals and roll of future SREAC activities.*