

**MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSMISSION COORDINATION TASK FORCE**

**October 28, 2024
1:00 P.M.**

Microsoft Teams meeting
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AGENDA:

- 1. Call to order, roll call, and establishment of quorum.** Jennifer Taylor, Chairwoman, opened the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Task Force Members Present

Jennifer Taylor	Hayley Williamson
Carolyn Turner	Dwayne McClinton
Richard Perkins	Ernest Figueroa
Alise Porto	John Henry Shields
Erik Hansen	Kayla Dowty
Jeremy Newman	Luis Cruz
Leslie Mujica	Jeremiah Drew
Sen. Dallas Harris	Nicole Ting

Task Force Members Absent

Luke Papez
Eric Witkoski
Asm. Melissa Hardy
Elizabeth Becker
Tom Burns
Sen. Pete Goicoechea
Asm. Daniele Monroe Moreno

- 2. Public comments and discussion.** Chairman Taylor opened this agenda item. No public comment was received.
- 3. Opening Remarks from Chairwoman Jennifer Taylor**

Welcome everyone to the October 2024 Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force meeting. We have a full schedule of speakers so I would like to introduce our first speaker, Pam Sporborg with Portland General Electric.

- 4. Pam Sporborg, Director of Transmission and Markets, Portland General Electric Westwide Governance Pathways Initiative, Step 2 Draft Proposal Briefing - can be found here.**

<https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/Portland%20General%20Electric-Pathways%20Step%202.pptx>

Following the presentation, Task Force members asked the following questions and a discussion followed.

Luis Cruz Negron: What will be the size of the board? How many members?

Pam Sporborg: We are recommending a 7-member board to oversee the regional organization. We are accepting comments on the size of the board but our current recommendation is a 7-member board that would be an expansion of two from the current 5-member board.

Luis Cruz Negron: What will be the manpower required? How many people will be on the staff?

Pam Sporborg: We recommend starting the regional organization off with a year one budget of \$1.5 to \$2.3 million that recognizes the challenge of staffing. We want to cover the board and executive director's funding for the council and about 3 staff for its year one operations.

Luis Cruz Negron: How do you compare to other existing RTO's in the East or other regions? How does sizing both for board and staff compared to those already established RTO's?

Pam Sporborg: From a board perspective, I think we are fairly comparable. We are significantly smaller because this organization is an oversight organization and has a contract for services relationship to California ISO. Our primary goal is to not duplicate requirements and to minimize the cost of standing up this independent board and our staffing reflects those that are requirements to have independence but not to have duplication.

Leslie Mujica: Just for the sake of clarity and transparency, are the board members paid?

Pam Sporborg: Correct. All RTO boards are paid positions across every RTO. In talking to our current governing body members, they spend a good minimum of 22 to 40 hours a week on board work. This does require someone who is willing to dedicate the time but we expect them not only to read the board briefing materials and to understand the issues that are coming before them, but also to do engagement and outreach to the stakeholder community in order to understand stakeholder perspectives on the board. The majority of board members are retired professionals from a diverse array of backgrounds. We want our board members to be engaged and to attend functions and to be available to understand the issues and the perspectives that the stakeholder community is bringing.

Ernest D. Figueroa: I want to personally thank Michelle Beck for leading the effort of the Western consumer advocates providing the comments necessary to the Pathways Initiative. Obviously, looking at your presentation, a lot of our comments were well received so thank you very much and thank you to Michelle.

Jennifer Taylor: Could you send the links to the webinar in a follow-up e-mail?

Pam Sporborg: Absolutely.

Jennifer Taylor: I know you mentioned MISO and how it kind of developed out of a multiple set of balancing authorities. When you were working on this or just in your own observations, especially from the perspective of a utility with ratepayers was there anything within the MISO development as a good or bad within that development should be looked at for the west or anything we should definitely stay away from?

Pam Sporborg: We have evaluated all of the RTO governance structures in the eastern markets and we have worked pretty extensively with both MISO and with ISO New England who has an organization called NEPOOL, which is a stakeholder organization that has shared 205 filing rights with FERC, which is a lot of the foundation for our Step 1 proposal. We have worked hard to incorporate different elements from the eastern markets that resonate with Western consumers. I mentioned the CAPS Organization from PJM and we are bringing that concept into this process and hopefully our consumer advocates will shape that organization into the way that they want it for a Western CAPS but there is certain challenges that we see in eastern markets. Transmission cost allocation has been a significant barrier across the board for transmission development and transmission planning.

Jennifer Taylor: Is there any legislation in California that would be needed to implement this? And if so, where are you on that status and what is the likelihood of that being successful this go around?

Pam Sporborg: We do have a limited legislative change that is necessary to implement Step 2 of the Pathways Initiative. We are working to finalize our proposal by November 22nd of this year and then once we have finalized that proposal, the members of the launch committee who are also active in the California legislature picking up that package and starting to build a process to run a bill in California. It's not a launch committee activity, but it does have members of the launch committee who are working to move that process forward. We, unlike previous attempts at California legislative change, have the folks who take full credit for killing all previous initiatives on our side, particularly California labor and then some members of California public power who were fundamentally opposed to the full regionalization of the ISO market, particularly for the reasons I shared earlier around the relationship between the CAISO balancing authority and California public policy. In many ways, the approach that we are taking here, because we are not touching all of those areas to the right of energy markets, are able to build a stronger coalition within California and we have a clear path to success. There is nothing sure in politics until the bill is signed but we do have support in a way that we did not before for this opportunity to create more parity between the regional organization and its oversight, specifically of markets. Some of the additional encumbrances around state legislation also help with our Western state colleagues.

Jennifer Taylor: I just wanted to have you talk in terms of the voting structure. How would it look for Nevada since we have an investor-owned utility that covers the bulk of the state? How do we ensure Nevada has safeguards so that it does not have policies or governance dictated by California?

Pam Sporborg: We have a number of different sectors that are represented in the stakeholder Representatives Committee. As you know, in the energy sector, the consumer advocate who would have representation through their sector would, for each entity have the opportunity to voice their perspective. The RO board would be chartered to be working with the body of state regulators who would then be able to identify and collaborate with that board to raise any issues where they saw a conflict between the way a stakeholder initiative was proceeding and their own state public policy. Since criteria are framed as front and center in the RO decision-making responsibility, if Nevada thought a market proposal would negatively impact their state public policy, they would work directly with the board to identify that, raise that issue and bring it to resolution through the public policy process.

Jennifer Taylor: Eric Hansen just dropped a question in the chat and is it something you can answer through e-mail?

Pam Sporborg: Yes.

5. Ben Fitch-Fleischmann, Director, Markets and Transmission, Interwest Energy Alliance

Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning (FER Order 1920) - can be found here.

<https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/Interwest%20Energy%20Alliance.pdf>

Following the presentation, Task Force members asked the following questions and a discussion followed.

Jennifer Taylor: How can additional interested parties reach out to try to be included in the process?

Ben Fitch: As of right now, at least for the initial Northern grid meeting, the transmission owners who are hosting that have declined to make it an open meeting and have said it is only open to the representatives from the relevant state entities that they have invited.

Jennifer Taylor: Is there any overlap with the siting entities like the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting committee or Oregon's transmission siting entity? Oregon is a little bit different, but just wondering how those state entities or agencies are being looped into that planning.

Ben Fitch: Siting agencies, to my knowledge, have not been active participants in WestTEC. There have been a number of broad calls for public participation and a series of public webinars. The major venue for participation from state reps in WestTEC is through the CREPC Transmission collaborative and that is state commissions and energy offices collaborating to stay up to speed on what WestTEC is doing.

Jennifer Taylor: The 20-year studies that involve the IRPs, how are they looking at load growth, especially in the in the desert Southwest and Colorado? How are they taking that into account as they are doing the regional planning?

Ben Fitch: For WestTEC, for the 10-year study, we are using the traditional bread and butter utility load forecast, many of which have been updated based on recent changes in expectations like data center growth and then for the 20-year forecast E3 is developed.

**6. Devin Hartman, Director, Energy and Environmental Policy, R Street Institute
Western Power Improvement: Market Expansion, Interconnection & Transmission Siting - can be found here.**

<https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/R%20Street%20Institute.pptx>

Following the presentation, Task Force members asked the following questions and a discussion followed. Jennifer Taylor: Would you say that you're seeing large industrial loads or large industrial customers looking to markets with RTOs?

Devin Hartman: It is always hard to tell. It is a factor, but it is hard to tell how heavily weighed that factor is. These firms usually will never reveal it, but you do see an energy indicator that explicitly assesses RTO status and its functionality. You see this from some of the hyperscalers and data centers. Traditional data centers have low latency requirements and they do not have a ton of citing flexibility.

7. **David Rubin, NV Energy, Federal Energy Policy Director
Regional Coordination Task Force Update - can be found here.**
<https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/NV%20Energy.pptx>

Following the presentation, Task Force members asked the following questions and a discussion followed.

Jennifer Taylor: Thank you David. In the interest of time, if there are a couple questions I have, could you respond in the form of written responses?

David Rubin: Yes, not a problem.

8. **Julia Selker, Executive Director, WATT Coalition
Grid Enhancing Technologies - can be found here.**
<https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/WATT%20Coalition.pptx>

Following the presentation, Task Force members asked the following questions and a discussion followed.

Jennifer Taylor: Thank you so much, Julia. I'm going to ask you the same question I asked David. In the interest of time, if there are a couple questions I have, if you wouldn't mind, just maybe shooting them back in the form of written responses.

Julia Selker: Yes, that is fine.

9. **Question and Answer: Carolyn M. Turner:** Will the other presentations be made available to the Task Force members?

Jennifer Taylor: Yes, absolutely.

10. **Public comments and discussion:** No public comment was made.

11. **Adjournment:** We can adjourn. I appreciate everyone's participation today and enjoy the rest of your afternoon.

This notice and agenda have been posted on or before 9:00 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting at the following locations:

- (1) Governor's Office of Energy principal office at 600 E. William St., Ste. 200, Carson City, NV
- (2) Governor's Office of Energy website: <http://energy.nv.gov>
- (3) Nevada State official website: <https://notice.nv.gov>