November 8, 2011

TO:   Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC)

     Scenario Planning Steering Group (SPSG)
     TEPPC Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TAS)
     State-Provincial Steering Committee (SPSC)

RE: 2011-2013 RTEP planning cycle

As you know, the WECC Board of Directors approved WECC’s first-ever 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan on September 22, 2011. This was a significant accomplishment for the Western Interconnection. On behalf of WECC, thank you for your contributions.

WECC is now focusing its efforts on the 2011-2013 RTEP planning cycle and the next major set of deliverables—an updated and expanded 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan and the first-ever 20-Year Regional Transmission Target Plan. Many activities to support the 2013 Plans are already underway and include:

- stakeholder-driven technical analysis under the guidance of TAS and its workgroups;
- completion of the long-term planning scenarios by the SPSG;
- creation of two GIS-based long-term planning tools that include important environmental, water, and cultural attributes;
- continuing the environmental and cultural review initiatives through WECC’s Environmental Data Task Force; and
- completion of the water-related analyses by the Western Governors’ Association.

As work continues, WECC seeks to ensure that our efforts remain focused on activities that will yield credible information (plans, models, and data) that is used and useful for stakeholders. To better understand the needs of RTEP stakeholders, WECC again seeks your input through a short survey. The responses will be used to create a guiding document for the next 10- and 20-Year Plans.

Prior to completing the survey, please review the survey questions and supplemental information on the subsequent pages. You can’t save the survey, but may complete it more than once. Your last response will be used.

Best Regards,

Byron Woertz

CLICK HERE TO ENTER THE SURVEY

Survey Responses are due November 30, 2011
Survey Questions

1. Respondent info – name, affiliation, email, membership (e.g., TEPPC, SPSG), stakeholder type.

2. Please identify the three items that would be most useful for you to see in an Interconnection-wide 10-year transmission plan.
   - Congestion analyses
   - Alternative resource locations
   - Environmental/cultural analyses
   - Capital cost estimates for new generation
   - Operational impacts of transmission planning
   - Projected load and resource changes
   - Options for new transmission corridors
   - Capital cost estimates for new transmission
   - Policy options (e.g., resource relocations, EE/DSM, carbon reduction)
   - Institutional considerations (e.g., planning cooperation)

3. Please identify the three items that would be least useful for you or that you believe are inappropriate for a 10-year transmission plan.
   - Congestion analyses
   - Alternative resource locations
   - Environmental/cultural analyses
   - Capital cost estimates for new generation
   - Operational impacts of transmission planning
   - Projected load and resource changes
   - Options for new transmission corridors
   - Capital cost estimates for new transmission
   - Policy options (e.g., resource relocations, EE/DSM, carbon reduction)
   - Institutional considerations (e.g., planning cooperation)
4. Please identify the three items that would be most useful for you to see in an Interconnection-wide 20-year transmission plan.

• Congestion analyses
• Projected load and resource changes
• Alternative resource locations
• Options for new transmission corridors
• Environmental/cultural analyses
• Capital cost estimates for new transmission
• Capital cost estimates for new generation
• Policy options (e.g., resource relocations, EE/DSM, carbon reduction)
• Operational impacts of transmission planning
• Institutional considerations (e.g., planning cooperation)

5. Please identify the three items that would be least useful for you or that you believe are inappropriate for a 20-year transmission plan.

• Congestion analyses
• Projected load and resource changes
• Alternative resource locations
• Options for new transmission corridors
• Environmental/cultural analyses
• Capital cost estimates for new transmission
• Capital cost estimates for new generation
• Policy options (e.g., resource relocations, EE/DSM, carbon reduction)
• Operational impacts of transmission planning
• Institutional considerations (e.g., planning cooperation)

6. What additional information, if available, would be useful to your internal analyses and planning activities? [provide up to three responses]

7. What types of decisions will you use RTEP information and/or the 10- and 20-Year Plans to support? [provide up to three responses]
8. What question(s) would you like the reports to answer? As an example, please see the draft WECC scenarios posted on the SPSG web site. On p. 4 of the document, you will see two focus questions related to the future of WECC’s territory. As you identify questions you would like to have answered, please keep in mind the overall WECC mission—to coordinate and promote bulk electric system reliability in the Western Interconnection; and the overall goal of the RTEP project—to create transmission plans that will provide high quality, credible information on transmission infrastructure requirements to decision makers at all levels. [provide up to three responses]

9. At what points in the process of creating these plans would you like opportunities for review and comment? [select for both the 10- and 20-Year Plans]

9a. 10-Year Plan
- Stakeholder Study Case Requests
- Study Case Prioritization
- Draft Study Program
- Preliminary Study Case Results
- Draft Plan
(choose up to five options)

9b. 20-Year Plan
- Scenarios
- Proxies
- Inputs to SCDT
- Possible Transmission Segments
- Optimized Transmission
- Plans and Policy Implications
(choose up to six options)

10. How much time do you need to review and comment on a report that is approximately 100 pages, including both text and data/graphics? [1 selection]
- 1 week
- 2 weeks
- 3 weeks
- 4 weeks

You may be interested in reviewing comments provided on this topic by the Scenario Planning Steering Group during an October 13, 2011 webinar.

If you have questions regarding the survey, please contact Byron Woertz (bwoertz@wecc.biz).