

# **Northwest Public Power Association**

## **Resolution 2010-01**

### **Regional Transmission Solutions**

#### **Background**

NWPPA recognizes transmission solutions are important to the region. NWPPA believes the transmission planning process in the Northwest is effective and working well. NWPPA members already benefit from a reliable, low-cost power and transmission system. The vast majority of electric utilities operating in the West are dependent on the regional transmission system for access to Power Marketing Administration (PMA) power and the wholesale power market. Any proposal aimed at modifying the operating characteristics of the Western regional transmission system must be cautiously approached, as misguided changes to the fundamental operating procedures of the transmission grid have had devastating consequences for consumers in other regions.

#### **NWPPA's Position**

- Policymakers should encourage sub-regional planning groups like the ColumbiaGrid, the Northern Tier Transmission Group and the Transmission Agency of Northern California to continue to develop, fund and implement regional solutions to transmission problems.
- NWPPA supports efforts to advance cost effective proposals to solve recognized transmission problems including those arising from the integration of variable generation resources. Any effort to modify the transmission system should not result in the creation of new institutions that would lessen regional input and control.
- NWPPA opposes efforts by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to encourage the formation of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) in the West. Past RTO proposals have produced ill-defined governance, excessive costs, loss of regional accountability and greater federal regulation.
- NWPPA opposes efforts by Congress to direct the construction of transmission.
- In order to maintain a reliable and stable power supply, NWPPA supports transmission access for all types of generating resources and beneficiary financing of transmission lines to serve those resources.
- Policymakers should support a measured approach to addressing regional transmission problems that encourages regional collaboration rather than imposing a one-size fits all system that is costly and ill-suited for the Western region.

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