

EXECUTIVE ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR

ESTABLISHING THE NEVADA RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHASE II)

WHEREAS, Nevada currently imports more than half of its electricity; and

WHEREAS, Nevada is blessed with an abundance of renewable energy resources and development of our renewable energy resources will help reverse Nevada's dependence on imported electricity; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy has the potential to provide economic development opportunities for Nevada's rural communities, diversify the state's economy, create high-paying jobs and create many other public benefits for the citizens of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, encouraging the development of renewable energy industries and renewable energy policies will help reduce cost of energy and also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) requires that by the year 2015, twenty percent of the total electricity sold in this State by a provider of electric service (as defined in NRS 704.7808), must come from renewable energy systems and energy efficiency measures. Renewable energy development has accelerated with the implementation of the RPS; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy is in many instances located in areas without developed transmission infrastructure and renewable energy development requires reliable transmission access; and

WHEREAS, I established the Nevada Renewable Energy Transmission Access Advisory Committee (RETAAC) by an executive order on May 9, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the RETAAC was to: (1) Identify locations where renewable energy can be commercially developed, ranking them based on size and viability and comparing them to Nevada's energy needs and demand; (2) Assess existing and planned transmission access to these locations; and (3) Make recommendations for additional transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, the RETAAC finalized their report on December 31, 2007 and presented their recommendations to the Governor on January 24, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the RETAAC examined geothermal, solar, wind and biomass potential using the best available databases and models, compared available transmission access to these renewable energy zones and overlaid areas of constraint on the resulting three maps; and

WHEREAS, the RETAAC made the following three recommendations: (1) The Governor's Office should support the construction of thirteen transmission lines and collector systems to enable access for renewable energy development in each of the identified Renewable Energy Zones; (2) The Governor's Office should support the construction of a transmission line to connect the state's northern and southern electric grids of sufficient capacity to provide Nevada Power with their non solar renewable energy requirements from the abundant geothermal and wind resources in northern Nevada and provide Sierra Pacific Power access to the abundant solar resources in southern Nevada; and (3) Phase II of the RETAAC should be initiated to define the environmental and physical feasibility issues, costs and potential financing mechanisms associated with the recommended transmission routes; and

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 1 of the Nevada Constitution provides that “The supreme executive power of this State, shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate who shall be Governor of the State of Nevada.”


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Gibbons, Governor of the State of Nevada, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Nevada do hereby order and create the Nevada Renewable Energy Transmission Access Advisory Committee Phase II (RETAAC II). The RETAAC II shall: determine the power potential capacity for each renewable energy zone that is available for commercial development; investigate environmental, land use, and permitting constraints; identify routes that can accommodate immediate construction of transmission lines while avoiding constraint areas; determine the cost and revenue structure of transmission lines based on supply curves; identify and rank the lines that are feasible to build; address the possible financing mechanisms to build these transmission lines and collector systems; and provide related policy recommendations. The RETAAC II shall follow the open meeting law. The RETAAC II shall consist of an appropriate number of members as determined by the Governor and who serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Committee shall submit a final report and recommendation to the Governor by July 31, 2009.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City this 12th day of June, in the year two thousand eight.




Governor of the State of Nevada

By the Governor:


Secretary of State of Nevada

Deputy