

**APPENDIX III**

**MEETING MINUTES WITH  
PUBLIC COMMENT  
June – December 2007**

**RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION  
ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

December 31, 2007

## Meeting Minutes

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**Minutes  
for  
Renewable Energy Transmission Access Advisory  
Committee Meeting**

June 15, 2007  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Capitol Building Annex  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada

**Committee Members Present:**

Daniel Schochet, Vice President, Ormat  
Carolyn Barbash, Transmission Executive, Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power  
Marion Barritt, Director, American Solar Energy Society  
Tim Carlson, President/CEO, Powered by Renewables  
Gilbert Cohen, Senior Vice President, Acciona Solar Power  
Thomas Fair, Renewable Energy Executive, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific  
Erin Iping Kuo, Director, Next Generation Etak and President of the Board of Directors,  
Nevada EcoNet  
Dr. Raj Mehta, Deputy Director, Nevada State Office of Energy  
Christy Morris, Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Program manager, Nevada Division of Minerals  
Rebecca Wagner, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada  
Fred Schmidt for Gary Wayne, Director of Strategic Projects, SunPower Corporation

**Committee Members Absent:**

Jeneane Harter, President, HiTech Communications  
Brian Whalen, Transmission Planning Manager, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific  
Joseph Greco, Vice President, Western Region, Caithness Energy

**Members of the Public:**

Kyle Davis, Policy Director, Nevada Conservation League  
Pete Konesky, Nevada State Office of Energy  
Charles Benjamin, Western Resource Advocates  
Gary Wood, Renewable Energy Program Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority

Daniel Schochet, Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order and introduced Governor Jim Gibbons.

Governor Gibbons welcomed the members and thanked them for their efforts on behalf of Nevada. He recognized our critical energy needs and outlined some of the efforts we have made in Nevada to address ongoing challenges. He said that we have an opportunity; we have an obligation to capture our renewable energy resources and to deliver the power to the grid. He stressed that the committee might think in terms of supplying Nevada residents with much-needed electrical power, and also of moving power into the disposable marketplace, where we can meet the consumption needs of neighboring states like California. The governor pointed out the reluctance of the leadership and citizens of California to develop new energy production. He said that this represents an opportunity for Nevada and that if we are smart, we can take advantage of their lack of interest in producing new energy.

The Governor stressed that Nevada is rich in renewable energy sources. He said that we are at the heart of geothermal, the heart of solar, and that we are working to develop more wind generated power.

He said that our state spends as much as \$6 billion annually importing energy. This committee can make meaningful recommendations to the leadership of Nevada and move to reduce our expensive dependence on imported power. He continued by saying that this will be the group that will review all of the industries, the needs, and the demands as they relate to energy in this state. Together, this committee and Nevada's leaders can bring our state into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and into energy independence.

Governor Gibbons recognized Dr. Hatice Gecol, Director of Nevada's Energy Office and the Governor's Energy and Science Advisor. He said that he has a great deal of respect for her, for her work, and for her dedication to Nevada. He pointed out her professional accomplishments and her reputation as a prolific writer and researcher.

The Governor thanked Dr. Gecol for her service, and ended his remarks by encouraging the committee to take up this "\$6 billion opportunity" to change the face of Nevada energy.

Mr. Schochet thanked the Governor and began his comments by reinforcing the purpose and the charge of the committee.

- Identify sources of renewable energy in Nevada and existing power plants.
- Identify existing and planned transmission access to these plants.
- Make recommendations for additional transmission lines.
- Work with utilities on network upgrades that will be required to bring in remote renewable generation.
- Identify the most equitable way to pay for these upgrades so as to encourage the development of projects and products in our state.

Dr. Gecol reminded the committee that the deadline for the presentation of the report is December 31, 2007.

Mr. Schochet asked that the members present introduce themselves.

### **Status of Transmission in Nevada – SPPC/NPC**

Mr. Schochet asked Carolyn Barbash to describe the transmission system as it is currently configured in Nevada.

Ms. Barbash began with a broad overview. She said that Nevada currently has two load centers, one in the north and one in the south. In the north, Sierra Pacific Power Company (“SPPC”) covers 50,000 square miles and had a system peak load of about 1,700 MW (megawatts) in 2006. In the south, Nevada Power Company (“NPC”) covers 4,000 square miles of service territory and had a peak system load of about 5,600 MW in 2006. SPPC and NPC are members of the Western Electric Coordinating Council Grid which consists of 11 western states, portions of three other states, Alberta, British Columbia, and Baja Mexico. The eastern portion of the United States does not have any significant interconnections with the West, mainly because of the barrier of the Rocky Mountains.

She offered some information about the northern Nevada system. It is interconnected to Idaho Power Company through a line that extends up to northern Nevada from the Valmy Generating station to a location called Midpoint. That line is capable of importing 500 MW of energy and exporting about 250 MW. There is also an interconnection with the Bonneville Power Administration by the Alturas project which runs from Reno to the Hilltop substation in southern Oregon. That line is capable of 300 MW of bi-directional transfers. SPPC also has a 230 kV inter-tie extending into Utah that consists of two lines; one inter-connects with PacificCorp’s eastern operation in Utah and the other interconnects with Intermountain Power Project (a generation project) in Utah. These lines together are capable of importing 370 MW and of exporting 230 MW.

To the west, SPPC is interconnected with Pacific Gas and Electric by one 120 kV line and two 69 kV lines. These lines are capable of importing 100 MW and exporting from 5 to 100 MW depending on the season and the loading on the underlying system within the grid. SPPC also has very small line to Southern California Edison capable of carrying 17 MW.

The southern transmission grid is more robust because of the location. It is closer to other major transmission owners and is not as rural as northern Nevada. The total import capacity in southern Nevada is about 4,000 MW.

On the northern cut plane NPC has a 345 kV line that extends from the Harry Allan substation to PacifiCorp’s Eastern Operations that is capable of transmitting about 300

MW. There is also a line that intersects the Navaho transmission system from the Navaho plant in Arizona down into the McCullough substation in the El Dorado Valley at the Crystal Substation located about 10 miles from the Harry Allan site. That interconnection is capable of importing about 950 MW.

The southern cut plane is inter-connected with three substations in the El Dorado Valley: Mead, McCulloch, and El Dorado. The cut plane consists of about 14 parallel 230 kV lines. This combination allows for the importation of about 2,800 MW, so the total import capacity in southern Nevada is about 4,000 MW.

The import capability in northern Nevada is currently a maximum of about 1,000 MW. The import capability is not the sum of each tie line because SPPC has to be able to survive an outage of any one of those ties lines without causing cascading outages in the system.

Mr. Schochet discussed new, relatively small, renewable projects that will be developed. He expects that they will generate less than 50 MW. He inquired about the voltage of transmission lines that will be required to deliver this power to the grid.

Ms. Barbash suggested that a number of factors could contribute to these decisions including the size of the project and the location of the project.

Mr. Schochet displayed a map, called the Substation Engineering Transmission Line map from Sierra Pacific Power. He said that the committee will want to look at the empty spaces where there are no major lines of any size currently in place. We will be aware of “bubbles” of potential energy production and areas that may require network upgrades. He said that it would be useful for all members of the committee to have an updated map of this type.

Ms. Barbash agreed and said that she would look into acquiring copies for all of the committee’s members.

Tim Carlson asked if any current maps include lines used by co-ops in the state and suggested that it will be important to include all purchasers and importers of energy in the committee’s study. Mr. Schochet observed that his map appeared to include only utility lines. Ms. Barbash said that she was not aware of maps that outlined co-op and municipal lower voltage lines, but she could inquire about them.

Ms. Barbash was asked about export capacity from the southern part of the state as it relates to the Governor’s goal of becoming a net exporter of renewable energy. She responded that transmission facilities have been constructed that are necessary to transport the amount of power that transmission customers have requested to be exported. She said that these facilities are constructed when requested by new power plants or other customers that want to export energy.

## **Discussion of the North/South tie line (Eastern Nevada Transmission Intertie or “EN-TI”)**

Ms. Barbash said that the line will run from Ely to the Harry Allen substation north of Las Vegas. It is expected to be in service in 2011 and will be a 500 kV AC line. Currently it is expected to have a transfer capability of 2,000 MW from Ely to Las Vegas and 1,000 from Las Vegas to Ely. It will be very important in integrating renewable energy and transferring it between northern and southern Nevada. The line will cost between \$570 – 600 million , subject to cost of materials and will be about 250 miles long.

Tom Fair said that this tie is fundamentally important to the state. The vast portion of geothermal and wind potential is in the north. In order to meet the renewable portfolio standard requirements, this line will be essential.

Mr. Fair said that the transmission line project is underway and is in the permitting phase, including environmental reviews, permits, studies, , and coordination with the Bureau of Land Management. A number of steps are required especially in terms of building a high voltage transmission line. The line is bigger than is necessary for the proposed coal plants and will accommodate renewable power projects.

Mr. Schochet asked Rebecca Wagner about lines, such as the Frontier Line, that may be planned for running across Nevada from the west to the east. She said that you have to have generation and demand and, at present, none of the projects are realistic. They are essentially meant to be lines that will connect California with power producers east of Nevada.

In terms of exporting power, Ms. Wagner recognized a need to protect the interests of Nevada rate payers and utility shareholders. The expenses incurred in building systems that export power to other states will be, ultimately, borne by Nevada’s utility customers. She said that we need to meet our needs first, especially those of the renewable portfolio standards. She said that she also agrees with the Governor when he says that because California does not build generation and because they don’t build transmission lines this represents an opportunity for Nevada.

Ms. Barritt said that the main goal for the public should be to begin by decreasing the amount of energy imported.

Mr. Schochet asked if there are any more transmission projects being considered.

Ms Barbash said that the Sierra Pacific Power Company Integrated Resource Plan will be filed on July 1. Nevada Power Company has just completed construction of the final phase of the Centennial project in March of this year. She discussed the three lines that make up the project.

Under development in southern Nevada is the East Valley master plan which allows for delivery of more resources into the Las Vegas Valley. Also under development is the North Las Vegas master plan designed to support 2,000 MW of load growth. Some facilities associated with this plan will be in place this year and all will be in place by 2012. This is not necessarily related to transmission of renewable energy.

Gary Wayne added that SunPower Corporation is planning a 230 kV transmission line coming in from the River Mountain substation up through Spring Valley. It will be in place by 2010 or 2011, and the project is currently in permitting phase.

Mr. Carlson said that the federal government is going through a process now of determining additional transmission corridors that will go through the Las Vegas Valley. The federal government has announced public hearings. The committee should be aware and might consider inviting speakers or representatives from the Department of Energy and/or the Bureau of Land Management. The committee will be interested in the placement of the corridor. This new corridor will impact our studies.

Rebecca Wagner suggested that the committee has two factors to consider. The Public Utilities Commission, the state Energy Office, and other interested agencies will submit comments which are due by July 6. There will be a public meeting in Las Vegas on June 20, 2007, similar to a scoping meeting regarding DOE's proposed designation of Clark County as a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor. The focus of the study by the federal government will be the transmission of power to California. She discussed a meeting which be held for anyone who is involved with the permitting process for construction of transmission lines. She plans to inform the committee when she has details.

Mr. Carlson and Tom Fair agreed to attend the meeting as representatives of the committee.

Dr. Mehta suggested that the committee might study and consider the current status of renewable energy in Nevada.

Mr. Schochet agreed and pointed out two issues of importance: existing plants and existing resources.

Ms. Morris offered the information that the University of Nevada, Reno has prepared maps of renewable energy resources and said that she can prepare a presentation for a future meeting. She informed the committee of an interactive GIS map that is currently

being prepared by the Department of Energy. Ms. Morris and Ms. Barbash discussed preparing a map that would overlay the renewable energy resources with transmission facilities in Nevada.

### **Transmission Access Related Barriers to Nevada's Renewable Resources**

Mr. Schochet asked members of the committee to discuss barriers to building and developing transmission lines in their areas of expertise.

Mr. Carlson discussed barriers encountered by developers of wind power. He said that they have encountered challenges related to federal land access, access to air space and clearance requirements of the Department of Defense and the U. S. Air Force.

Gilbert Cohen reported a need for lines that can transport solar generated power to northern customers, as most of the solar potential is currently located in the southern part of Nevada.

Mr. Schochet offered a comment concerning the committee's goal. He suggested that the goal should be a practical rather than a theoretical work product. He stated that currently, the transmission needs of geothermal power production have been met by easily accessed and existing lines. Looking forward, he anticipates a need for network upgrades which may involve higher interconnection costs, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) permitting issues, and right of way concerns.

Ms. Barbash discussed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), their rules and jurisdiction. She discussed cost allocations as they relate to interconnections from the plants to the grids and network upgrades.

### **Future Meeting Objectives**

Mr. Schochet discussed the highlights of the meeting and suggested that the committee meet once a month. The next meeting of the Transmission Access Advisory Committee will be held on Friday, July 20, 2007 at 10:00 am.

### **Public Comments**

Charles Benjamin, Director of the Nevada office of Western Resource Advocates, offered to assist the committee. He has worked with the Kansas legislature in 2005 in developing transmission lines legislation, and is available to assist here in Nevada.

Mr. Schochet thanked Mr. Benjamin and said that we may need some information before the beginning of Nevada's next legislative session.

Kyle Davis, Policy Director, Nevada Conservation League, said that the committee might consider several issues including the creation of a transmission authority, how to bring clean energy onto the grid without bringing more coal powered energy, and looking at the potential of exporting renewable energy.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 am.

**Minutes  
for  
Renewable Energy Transmission Access Advisory  
Committee Meeting**

August 24, 2007  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Capitol Building Annex  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada

**Committee Members Present:**

Daniel Schochet, Vice President, Ormat (**Chair**)  
Carolyn Barbash, Transmission Executive, Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power (**Vice Chair**)  
Christy Morris, Oil, Gas & Geothermal Program Manager, NV Division of Minerals (**Vice Chair**)  
Tim Carlson, President/CEO, Powered by Renewables  
Thomas Fair, Renewable Energy Executive, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific  
Rebecca Wagner, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada  
Fred Schmidt for Gary Wayne, Director of Strategic Projects, SunPower Corporation  
Jeneane Harter, President, HiTech Communications  
Brian Whalen, Transmission Planning Manager, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific  
Dr. Raj Mehta, Deputy Director, Nevada State Office of Energy,  
Joseph Greco, Vice President, Western Region, Caithness Energy

**Committee Members Absent:**

Marion Barritt, Director, American Solar Energy Society  
Gilbert Cohen, Senior Vice President, Acciona Solar Power

**Governor's Office:**

Dr. Hatice Gecol, Energy and Science Advisor to the Governor, and  
Director of Nevada State Office of Energy

**Members of the Public:**

Gary Wood, Renewable Energy Program Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Doug McLemore, Senior Mapping Systems Administrator, Nevada Power Company  
Vladimir Chadliev, Manager Renewable Energy Development, Nevada Power Company  
Ellen Allman, Caithness Energy  
Russ Mason, Administrator, Game Division, Department of Wildlife  
Dave Pulliam, Habitat Bureau Chief, Department of Wildlife

Pete Konesky, Staff Engineer, Nevada State Office of Energy  
Kyle Davis, Nevada Conservation League  
Charles Benjamin, Director, Nevada Office of Western Resource Advocates

Welcome by Chairman Schochet. Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2007 Meeting.

Daniel Schochet, Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order and made approving the minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting the first order of business. No Committee members had any comments or edits with regard to the minutes; therefore, Chairman Schochet assumed approval of the minutes.

### **Announcement of changes in Committee membership and structure**

Chairman Schochet announced the replacement of Committee member Erin Iping Kuo with Gary Wood from Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA).

Chairman Schochet also took a moment to thank Ms. Barbash and Ms. Morris for doing an outstanding job putting together the maps for this meeting.

Lastly, due to the short timeframe in which the Committee has to submit its report, Chairman Schochet thought it best to restate the objectives and focus of the Committee. The Governor's proclamation states that, "The Committee will propose recommendations for improved access for the grid system by which renewable energy industries can set up and have market access in Nevada and neighboring states." The Chairman noted that the Committee is not the forum to discuss certain restrictions, such as those imposed by the military and other governmental agencies, and there is no need to deal with grid-connected systems that have net metering because those already have access to the grid.

### **Renewable Maps with Transmission Overlay**

#### Status Report and Presentation of Maps with Transmission Lines Overlaid on Economically Developable Renewable Resources

Chairman Schochet introduced Ms. Barbash who began by recognizing Mr. McLemore as the one who did the overlay of the transmission systems on the maps with help from Ms. Morris and others who developed the economically developable renewable resource locations. She explained that Mr. McLemore was then able to overlay the mapping information from the utilities. Ms. Barbash then requested that Ms. Morris describe each map for the Committee.

Ms. Morris presented four maps, one for wind, one for solar, one for biomass and one for geothermal. She explained that the sources of the data are included in the map's legends. She recognized that some adjustment still needs to be done to the maps;

however, for the Committee's current objective, the point is to be looking at what resources are available to utilize.

During Ms. Morris' presentation, Mr. Schmidt asked if the maps included other transmission lines that are within state and owned by Co Ops. Ms. Morris replied that the Co Ops had been asked for the information and that they claimed it was not available in any kind of format that could be used for the Committee's purposes. To this Mr. Schmidt asked if the Committee would have this information before its draft report is finalized to which Chairman Schochet responded that they would try, but if the information was not available in time, the draft report would be finalized without it.

Chairman Schochet also pointed out that for the purposes of interconnecting free standing renewable utility level plants, 69 kV lines would be the minimum transmission voltage for interconnection. Mr. Whalen agreed and commented that anything below that voltage would only be for projects that are in very close proximity to the load. Mr. Schmidt then stated that there are a substantial amount of 69, 138 and even 230 kV lines that are not owned, controlled or operated by the two utility companies, to which Chairman Schochet reiterated that if that information becomes accessible, it will be included in the draft report. Mr. Schmidt suggested that those who would have this information be invited to the Committee meetings.

Next, in response to the Chairman's question regarding the availability of the maps to the Committee members, Ms. Morris stated that they are available on the web in pdf format; however, the available maps do not include the overlaying transmission lines because those were just added two days prior to the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt asked for clarification of the restricted areas on the map. Ms. Morris explained that the green, blue, and brown checkered areas on the highlighted vertical lines are restricted areas by the military or is restricted airspace. She noted that the maps do not include the restricted areas due to radar as the military did not provide that data. She also noted that the geothermal map is very promising and emphasized that the restricted areas are not set in stone. She stated there is potential for the appropriate agencies to lift the restrictions upon request.

Chairman Schochet asked the Committee for suggestions for approving these maps as they would be work products of the Committee and utilized in conjunction with the Committee's recommendations. He requested suggestions from the Committee regarding the final versions of the maps. The Chairman observed that the transmission lines on the maps were very hard to read, and asked Mr. McLemore if changes could be made to make them clearer. Mr. McLemore explained that the maps are pretty busy and that by making the lines any bolder could make the maps harder to read. Mr. McLemore mentioned that another option could be dividing the areas of the state and enlarging sections of interest. Chairman Schochet agreed with the option of dividing the state into sections, preferably one each for northern and southern Nevada.

Mr. Fair next requested that the Committee ensure that the Air Force is comfortable with the data included on the maps before they become available to the public. Ms. Morris responded that the maps are still in draft form and that all the appropriate agencies are signing off on all the maps before they will be available for public consumption, including Senator Reid's office. She noted that the maps should receive final approval from all the agencies in the next month. Mr. Fair also commented on the color key of the solar map where the darkest shade of red represented the lowest intensity of solar radiation, a color scheme which he believes to be counter intuitive. Mr. Fair suggested that to better represent the strongest solar radiation to the weakest, that the stronger areas should be the darker color. Ms. Morris stated that she would look at changing the color key.

There was discussion regarding an overlay being developed for the maps that include all "proposed" transmission lines. Ms. Wagner warned the Committee to be very careful when deciding which "proposed" lines to include, as many of them will never be built. In addition, Ms. Barbash noted that the routing of many of the "proposed" lines, as shown on the map, may not represent the final route. It was concluded that "proposed" lines would only be considered for the overlay if they have resource planning approval. For lines under 200 kV that do not need resource planning approval, only those that are certain to move forward will be included. Mr. McLemore stated that this could be done as long as the coordinates and data to base information are available.

The Chairman next discussed his recommendation for the formation of sub groups that would each focus on one of the four major renewable technologies and make recommendations to the full Committee regarding transmission access requirements for the specific technologies. He stressed the need for every Committee member to have their own copy of the maps in full size as reference material. Ms. Morris mentioned the cost issue and Dr. Gecol stated that the Governor's Office does not have a budget for this, however, the Energy Office may, and if so, they could fund the maps. Chairman Schochet also asked if the maps could be completed within three weeks, to which Ms. Morris responded that she would meet with Dr. Gecol to see what they could do.

### **Additional Presentations on Transmission**

#### Presentation by Brian Whalen

Mr. Whalen presented a map and handout that detailed Sierra Pacific's requested routing studies for corridors within the state. Mr. Whalen stated that the company has requested \$4 million of funding in its current Resource Plan to analyze future line routes that would be useful for renewable energy for Sierra's future needs. For the most part, he continued, the request is also for the renewable energy transmission requests either from Sierra under the Renewable Portfolio Standard or for entities that are currently in Sierra's transmission plan.

Mr. Schmidt requested clarification regarding the purpose of the requested routing studies. Mr. Whalen replied that it's to identify whether any or all of the shown corridors are viable or if they have fatal flaws. He emphasized that the intent is not to acquire the corridors. Ms. Wagner asked if this was consistent with the comments that were filed regarding the DOE 368 corridors, to which Mr. Whalen responded these are internal for the state. After further discussion regarding the information Mr. Whalen presented, it was concluded that the information is preliminary and should not be included on the maps.

## **Discussion Items**

### Plan to complete study and issue report by December 31, 2007

The Committee next discussed how to develop its end product report in the remaining short period of time. The Chair explained that he envisions the end product as being a report with recommendations and possibly cost estimates. He stated that he does not believe that how the lines are built or by whom are in the Committee's scope. Ms. Wagner suggested that the Committee can make all the recommendations its wants on what should be built and where; however, if the costs and who is funding those costs are not included, then the recommendations are not viable. She emphasized that economic feasibility and environmental feasibility are both major concerns. Chairman Schochet agreed and suggested that each subgroup have their preliminary recommendations to the full Committee by the September meeting so that between September and October, the economic and environmental issues can be considered.

Ms. Wagner further suggested that the subgroups coordinate their findings into zones. She explained that there may be many potential areas in a renewable energy zone; but, the key issue is, what is the likelihood of something actually getting developed? Ms. Wagner emphasized that to give the Governor a good recommendation and to set a course for the future of this state, the recommendations have to be realistic on what the Committee's priorities are regarding transmission. In response, Mr. Schmidt agreed that uncertainties need to be identified, but if there is no market to where all of the major renewable resources in this state can access without the transmission, that's a significant issue the Committee needs to identify. He continued that while the economics are critical as well, ultimately the end-use consumer pays for it. Since none of the costs actually accrue to the utility or the developer.

Mr. Schmidt further suggested that the Committee focus on identifying what transmission constraints are preventing renewable resources where they are most abundant in Nevada and able to be developed and get to the ultimate markets where they can be consumed. In response, Mr. Greco referred to a neighboring state's method of identifying that market. He explained that its utility companies send a questionnaire asking for information on future projects to all of the developers on an annual basis. Chairman Schochet stated that all of the suggestions are good and for the interest of

getting to an end-point, the technology sub groups should identify the zones that include economically developable resources with a priority ranking. From there, he suggested, the Committee may discuss how transmission can be developed in those areas. Ms. Barbash agreed and added that existing transmission in those areas also need to be identified. She suggested that once the zones are identified and ranked, and the transmission in the area has been assessed, an environmental/permitting sub group could be created to look at feasibility. Then, a technical group could look at what is necessary and possibly how much it will cost.

The Chair concluded that the priority for the September meeting is for the technology subgroups to have identified and ranked the zones. Then, in October the transmission subgroup can look into the technology sub group's recommendations and have their own recommendations for new transmission (to include costs) ready by the October meeting.

Ms. Wagner asked if the objective of the Committee is to meet Nevada's Renewable Portfolio Standards or, is the ultimate goal to export to California? She pointed out that the Committee's priority needs to be established so that it can be applied while selecting the proposed areas for the transmission. She explained that if the goal is to export to California, then the Committee needs to look at transmission access over the Sierras; however, if the priority is to meet Nevada's Renewable Portfolio Standard, that would obviously change. The Chair responded that it is his view that the objective of the Committee is for Nevada's resources to have access to the grid and whether that results only in the Nevada utilities meeting their Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements or there is excess renewable energy that can be exported to California, is an issue outside of the Committee's purview. He concluded that the Committee's first goals are to identify where the resources are and how to bring them onto the grid. Ms. Wagner agreed; however, she emphasized, it needs to be Nevada based, and she does not want Nevada ratepayers paying for transmission that goes out of state. Ms. Wagner stressed that meeting the Renewable Portfolio Standards should be a priority over exporting to California. Chairman Schochet agreed.

Ms. Barbash asked the Committee as to what will happen after the Committee recommends where transmission facilities should be pursued to the Governor. Mr. Schmidt responded that the Governor would develop policy based on the recommendations, either through the legislature or proclamation.

Next, Chairman Schochet started the process of forming the technical subgroups, they were created as follows:

**Solar Subgroup**

-Gary Wayne  
-Fred Schmidt  
-Todd Eagleston  
-Gilbert Cohen

**Wind Subgroup**

-Tom Fair  
-Tim Carlson  
-Jeneane Harter  
-Gary Wood  
-Raj Mehta

**Biomass Subgroup**

-Pete Konesky  
-Elwood Miller

**Geothermal Subgroup**

-Ellen Allman  
-Dan Schochet  
-Steve Pond

Ms. Wagner mentioned that the Lt. Governor has some intriguing ideas about financing the costs of transmission that would fold nicely into any transmission recommendations. Ms. Wagner suggested maybe a “Phase II” set of recommendations for next year and asked Dr. Gecol if the Governor might be open to the analysis of this. Dr. Gecol responded that the Governor is open to amending the executive order. Chairman Schochet thought this was an excellent idea and suggested that the current report would not deal with how to finance the cost, but rather, include recommendations for Phase II which would include these types of issues. Ms. Wagner added that Phase II should include how to pay for transmission and if there are creative avenues to finance these projects without burdening the ratepayers.

**Schedule of future meetings**

Chairman Schochet asked the Committee if September 21<sup>st</sup> was a good date for everyone for the following meeting, everyone agreed that it was.

**Issue of criteria for renewable generator owned radial line for interconnecting renewable projects to utility transmissions system**

With regard to the next item, the Chair suggested that the Committee discuss what should be the criteria for the maximum length of a radial line paid for by the developer to interconnect before it becomes a transmission issue. Ms. Barbash responded that FERC has jurisdiction over whether facilities are classified as generation interconnection or network upgrade facilities and does not determine that classification based on the length of the line. She explained that FERC uses the utilities’ existing facilities and the line that has to be built to connect those facilities as criteria. She further explained that FERC’s pricing policy says that you cannot take the radial line that interconnects into the utilities’ existing facilities (the generator lead line) and include that in the transmission rate for all customers to pay for. Generator lead lines are classified as generation interconnection facilities that must be paid for by the generator whereas network upgrades are paid for by the utility and included in the transmission rate. Chairman Schochet requested that at the next meeting, the utility provide further input on the

issue, and Mr. Whalen offered to recommend a capacity/voltage number and also dollars-per-mile at that voltage which would result in a calculation regarding how many dollars per megawatt it would cost.

Next, Chairman Schochet asked how the utility deals with interconnecting the intermittent resources and if they were capacity designated. Mr. Fair confirmed that they are capacity designated.

### **Public Comment**

First, Mr. Schmidt spoke on behalf of his client, Mr. Wayne, requesting that the Committee address the issue of transmission operation in terms of the methods that are being used. The Chair responded that the discussion will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and will be allotted 15 minutes.

Next, Kyle Davis from the Nevada Conservation League spoke. He agreed that the Committee should be looking at energy independence and meeting the Renewable Portfolio Standard; however, he pointed out, the Governor did refer to this as being a multibillion dollar opportunity for Nevada. Mr. Davis stated that this is a huge economic opportunity as California is going to have increased demand for renewable energy and that is a fact that needs to be considered. Mr. Davis concluded that if Nevada has a huge amount of renewable resources without transmission availability and the utilities do not need them, putting those resources online should still be considered because it is an economic development opportunity. Chairman Schochet noted Mr. Davis' questions and pointed out that exporting to other states is at least five years away.

Lastly, Charles Benjamin, from Western Resource Advocates spoke. He stated that once the whole process for developing transmission got to the point of discussing policy and how to implement various strategies, specifically for renewables, his organization could facilitate interested parties coming to Nevada to talk about these things. The Chair requested that Mr. Benjamin create a document electronically that could be sent to the members that describes a State Transmission Authority structure. Mr. Benjamin responded that he could do so but would need some time because every state authority is structured differently. They agreed that it would be provided to the Chair by mid-October.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.

**Minutes  
for  
Renewable Energy Transmission Access Advisory  
Committee Meeting**

September 21, 2007  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Capitol Building Annex  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada

**Committee Members Present:**

Daniel Schochet, Vice President, Ormat (**Chair**)  
Carolyn Barbash, Transmission Executive, Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power (**Vice Chair**)  
Christy Morris, Oil, Gas & Geothermal Program Manager, NV Division of Minerals (**Vice Chair**)  
Tim Carlson, President/CEO, Powered by Renewables  
Thomas Fair, Renewable Energy Executive, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific  
Fred Schmidt for Gary Wayne, Director of Strategic Projects, SunPower Corporation  
Jeneane Harter, President, HiTech Communications  
Brian Whalen, Transmission Planning Manager, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific  
Dr. Raj Mehta, Deputy Director, Nevada State Office of Energy,

**Committee Members Absent:**

Rebecca Wagner, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada  
Joseph Greco, Vice President, Western Region, Caithness Energy  
Marion Barritt, Director, American Solar Energy Society  
Gilbert Cohen, Senior Vice President, Acciona Solar Power

**Governor's Office:**

Dr. Hatice Gecol, Energy and Science Advisor to the Governor, and  
Director of Nevada State Office of Energy

**Members of the Public:**

Doug McLemore, Senior Mapping Systems Administrator, Nevada Power Company  
Vladimir Chadliev, Manager Renewable Energy Development, Nevada Power Company  
Pete Konesky, Staff Engineer, Nevada State Office of Energy  
Kyle Davis, Nevada Conservation League  
Charles Benjamin, Director, Nevada Office of Western Resource Advocates  
John O'Donnell, Executive Vice President, Ausra, Inc.

Tom Clark, Director of Government Affairs and Public Relations, Hale Lane

Welcome by Chairman Schochet. Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2007 Meeting

Daniel Schochet, Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order and made approving the minutes of the August 24th meeting the first order of business. No Committee members had any comments or edits with regard to the minutes; therefore, Chairman Schochet approved the minutes.

### **Reports from Technology Subgroups and Discussions**

Next, the Chair asked to hear the results of each of the technology subgroups.

#### Biomass Subgroup

Mr. Konesky spoke on behalf of the Biomass subgroup. He reported that the subgroup had meetings the prior week where they identified four major areas for potential biomass projects. The areas identified were Ely, Lincoln County, Mt. Charleston and the Carson/Tahoe area. Mr. Konesky noted that there are existing biomass projects in Ely and Carson City that have a need for a continuous fuel supply. Also, most areas have resources and the Ely area has a contract for removal of the biomass. Mr. Konesky continued that the perceived projects would center around local use of biomass and would most likely be considered as distributed generation. He explained that the reason for local projects is for transportation purposes and that it would be ideal to keep the source and the utilization of the biomass in the same area. Mr. Konesky stated that the projects to be considered would include: building or district heating; hot water heating; generation of steam for various processes; electrical generation; biofuels; composting; and pellets. He continued that the projects in general would displace electricity rather than create it. In addition, the aforementioned projects would be using net metering or the distribution center rather than the transmission system. Therefore, biomass can be developed without impacting the transmission system.

Chairman Schochet asked if there were any areas for potential biomass that could produce freestanding biomass to electrical power projects. To this Mr. Konesky replied that electricity could be generated; however, it would be in 1 MW to 3 MW, or smaller, facilities which could be used in the local arena rather than putting it on transmission.

Dr. Gecol then asked what the energy capacity in megawatts would be for these projects. Mr. Konesky responded that it would be approximately 5000 MW<sup>1</sup> but that he wasn't sure if that was quite feasible.

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<sup>1</sup> Upon clarification after the meeting, Mr. Konesky changed this number to 500,000 MWH annually.

Chairman Schochet asked if there is any potential for biomass by eliminating fuels in some of the national forest. Mr. Konesky responded that that has not been looked at as specifically as doing a comprehensive study on biomass use. He did note that there are facilities in California of this sort that are having a terrible time meeting their contractual requirements because they cannot get adequate biomass and are experiencing tremendous financial loss. The chair then asked about waste wood and waste industrial products that come out of Clark County. He asked if these could contribute to biomass if they could be moved to a facility that was far enough away from downtown Las Vegas. Mr. Konesky agreed that this is a viable project; however, there are no facilities to utilize that waste except in composting and making soil amendments. He continued that there should be some projects developed due to the state law that requires counties with waste and over 400,000 people to start developing such projects. Mr. Konesky emphasized that the waste really needs to be utilized rather than burned.

Chairman Schochet concluded that for the purposes of the report, nothing further will be needed from the subgroup except a summary for the final report. Mr. Konesky noted that if there is any additional information asked of the subgroup that should be included in the final report, it would be included in the next month.

### Geothermal Subgroup

Next, Chairman Schochet spoke on behalf of the geothermal subgroup. He explained that Nevada has identified 1500 MWs of geothermal potential but it is all spread out into relatively small projects. The largest single project online today is 60 MWs in Dixie Valley and has been operational for some 20 years. Steamboat is another larger project but is an overall development of several plants and is about 70 MWs to 90 MWs. The Chair continued that the subgroup examined areas on the map to determine where there are additional geothermal resources that have not been developed and where the transmission is needed to access them. He stated that five areas were identified and are as follows:

- Northwest corner of Washoe County – 200 to 300 MWs
- Central area south of Dixie Valley project – 500 MWs
- Esmeralda County – 100 to 250 MWs
- Nye County – 100 MWs
- White Pine County – 100 MWs

Chairman Schochet concluded that all together, there are approximately 1200 additional megawatts, and if you include the 200 MWs already online and the 300 MWs under development, there are approximately 1600 MWs, most of which require additional transmission to access it. The Chair stated that although the issue may not be in the scope of this Committee, accessing those additional megawatts does not have much significance unless the capacity can be accessed by Clark County. He then noted that of

the 1100 MWs, approximately 700 MWs would be accessible by the transmission lines located from the Dixie Valley area down to Esmeralda that were proposed by Sierra Pacific. Mr. Carlson asked the Chair if these lines are in addition to the line already built from the Dixie Valley down to Bishop. The Chair responded that the line Mr. Carlson is referring to is private and owned by Caithness who has indicated that they have no plans to make that line available for any other purposes.

Next, Mr. Wood asked if the areas identified by the subgroup have all been explored. Ms. Morris answered that the ratings on the maps for potential development are based on a number of hard and empirical data. To this, Chairman Schochet added that just about every project under development in the United States and every lease that has recently been auctioned off are a result of an exploration that was done in the seventies and sponsored by the US Department of Energy and the oil companies. The intention of the early exploration was to find steam that could replace fossil fuels. In Nevada however, with the exception of Dixie Valley, what was found was hot water and the wells were plugged and abandoned. Yet, the Chair emphasized, the data does exist and these areas do have potential.

Ms. Barbash asked for the Chair to clarify how much potential was found in Esmeralda to which he replied 150 to 200 MWs.

In addition, Chairman Schochet informed the Committee that the subgroup also considered what it would take to connect to a transmission line, as in most cases, a radial line is needed. He explained that it was assumed that the average project could afford a max of about 10 percent of the capital costs to be put towards interconnection and transmission.

### Solar Subgroup

Mr. Fair spoke on behalf of the solar subgroup and stated that there was no meeting held to look at the maps to identify the areas, although there should be a meeting in the future to do so. However, the solar situation is perhaps clearer than the other resources and it's really a matter of some of the large areas in southern Nevada that have been identified and are located on the BLM website. Mr. Fair stated that this activity can be reported on fairly soon to the Committee and then referred to Mr. Schmidt. Mr. Schmidt stated that it's Powerlight's view that transmission is not really a constraint as far as solar power is concerned. He continued that with regards to photovoltaic, most of it built to date has been on the customer side of the meter, therefore making it a distributive generation issue and not a transmission issue which is not likely to change.

Chairman Schochet expressed disappointment that the representative from Acciona has not deemed the transmission issue important enough to attend the meetings. Also, the next Committee meeting will deal with the recommendations; thus, it's probably too late in the process to submit much new information. He emphasized that this

Committee is on a very short timeframe and concluded that he must assume that the Solar Subgroup must not view new transmission as something that needs to be recommended for their purposes. Mr. Schmidt stated that the problem is there is not an active member in this group that can provide the kind of input needed for this purpose. Mr. Schochet continued that the maps that Enrel put out that show huge swaths of Nevada that are potential for solar resources and no one has seen it fit to come forward with any information.

Chairman Schochet concluded that the Committee could accept additional recommendations and/or information from the Solar Subgroup in the next month if there is any that could be accepted in the proper form.

Ms. Harter then asked the Chair if the Committee would accept input from solar representatives not on the Committee. To which he replied of course and suggested that any input of this kind be submitted through the Transmission Recommendations Subgroup as there will not be another Committee meeting until that subgroup forms its recommendations and is ready to present them.

#### Wind Subgroup

Mr. Fair spoke on behalf of the Wind Subgroup, he referred to the maps that he distributed and pointed out the balloons and numbers located on the maps. He explained what the numbers and the balloons indicated by zones, noting that the three clustered areas in eastern Nevada include about half of the total expected wind resource. He concluded that most of the resources are in the North and almost half are in the East with a very small amount in Clark County.

Chairman Schochet requested that Mr. Fair put the numbers down on a copy for the future subgroups to refer to. Mr. Fair stated he already had one that included the numbers and then gave the document to the Chair. Ms. Morris suggested that the subgroups give her their maps so that she can have the Bureau of Mines consolidate the maps and put them into electronic form and then whatever needs to be added could be. Chairman Schochet accepted Ms. Morris' offer and she concluded this could be done in approximately two weeks and would be accessible through the Bureau's FTP site.

Mr. Konesky asked if there is an issue with the different resource zones overlapping each other. The Chair replied that the intent is to show as much resource in a given area. He did point out that there are some large areas in the central part of the state that show no identifiable resource other than possibly the solar. Mr. Fair offered to pull that information together and to provide it to the Committee in a timely fashion.

#### **Additional Presentations on Transmission**

##### Presentation by C. Morris on Final Maps

Ms. Morris conducted a presentation where she showed the Committee how to utilize the GIS program that is used to view the electronic versions of the maps. She showed how to remove the layers and explained what many of the graphics referred to. She noted the load time is slow and that they are working on fixing that in addition to a few other problems. She concluded that she would send out the link to access the maps and asked that the Committee explore the program and provide feedbacks.

### Criteria for Generator Owned Radial Line for Interconnecting Renewable Projects

On this issue, Mr. Fair commented that with regard to the cost of interconnection mentioned (10% of capital cost), this would lengthen the criteria for the approval so for wind projects since it's a little tougher to spend that kind of money, but certainly some amount can be spent during this process, though Mr. Fair stated that an economic analysis has not been done yet to find the feasible dollar amount. The Chair stated that he mentioned this because this information should be included in the criteria that the Transmission Recommendations Subgroup should consider. Other criteria Chairman Schochet mentioned were: where are the resources that would justify new transmission; and are the resources so widely dispersed that maybe new transmission wouldn't be of any help.

### **Discussion Items**

#### Formation of New Subgroups

Next, Chairman Schochet started the process of forming the next subgroups, they were created as follows:

#### Transmission Recommendations Subgroup

- Carolyn Barbash
- Brian Whalen
- Ellen Allman
- Jeneane Harter
- John O'Donnell

#### Environmental and Right of Way Subgroup

- Kyle Davis
- Charles Benjamin
- Eileen Wynkoop (Lead)
- Christy Morris (Liaison between Environ. Subgroup and Report Prep Subgroup)
- Tim Carlson
- \*Dr. Gecol volunteered a representative from Wild Life

### Report Preparation Subgroup

- Jeneane Harter (Lead)
- Gary Wood
- Tim Carlson
- Tom Fair (Liason between Transmission Subgroup and Environ. Subgroup)
- Ellen Allman

During the formation of the Transmission Recommendations Subgroup, Ms. Barbash stated that the group will focus on the concentrated areas of the map, especially areas where there are multiple types of renewable resources available. Then the transmission lines that make sense to access those areas will be identified. She continued that the process would include the review of what is technically feasible as far as getting a line from the existing system to the identified area and integrating those resources in addition to some other considerations that will require simulations. Ms. Barbash then noted that she wasn't sure if this could be done by the next meeting to which Chairman Schochet asked if any preliminary recommendations could be done by then. Ms. Barbash responded that it is a possibility.

Also, during the formation of the Environmental and ROW Subgroup, Mr. Fair commented that dealing with the abstract is always easy, it's the implementation that is difficult when dealing with transmission projects. He emphasized that dealing with the issuance of permits is a time-consuming and difficult process and sometimes the end result is not what was hoped for. Mr. Fair commented that with the time-frame that the Committee is on, it will be quite a challenge for the Transmission Subgroup to come up with these recommendations. In response, the Chair requested that Mr. Fair be a liason between the Transmission and Environmental subgroups.

Lastly, Chairman Schochet concluded that the Transmission Recommendation Subgroup should have preliminary routing for the Environmental and Right of Way Subgroup to look at and determine if it's feasible. The Environmental and Right of Way Subgroup will be making sure that everything makes sense and is feasible. Also, what will be expected from the Report Preparation Subgroup will be a table of contents.

### **Schedule of Future Meetings**

The Chair suggested the next meeting be scheduled for October 19th so that the last meeting ends up in the middle of December instead of the end. This date was approved.

During this item, Mr. Schmidt requested to discuss an item regarding costs and the second phase as these were inadvertently passed. Mr. Schmidt asked for clarification as far as the cost estimates that would be included in the final report. Chairman Schochet explained that the estimates must be included and must be based on the experience and expertise of those involved with transmission lines. What would be put off until

Phase II is how the projects would be financed. Mr. Carlson also suggested that the permitting process be part of Phase II and the Chair agreed. It was also concluded that any Department of Defense issues would be discussed during Phase II.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Chadliev asked Ms. Morris to clarify who would be collecting the maps, to which she replied they should go to her. He also asked if she wanted the megawatts directly on the zones or in a separate table, and she requested a separate table.

Next, John O'Donnell from Ausra spoke. He explained that the solar company has aspirations to build large scale projects and will be announcing these projects a week from the meeting. He described Nevada has being of extreme interest to the company, especially with neighboring states soon needing thousands of megawatts of clean energy. He then described the standard plant that his company builds. He mentioned that he spoke with Governor Gibbons who relayed his interest in the state exporting clean power.

Mr. Schmidt asked if Ausra's primary interest is to built solar plants for the sole purpose of exporting to California, or is there also an interest in providing power to Nevada. Mr. O'Donnell responded that there is an extreme interest in both.

Charles Benjamin, from Western Resource Advocates spoke next. He reiterated his statements from the last two meetings regarding his organization's services and transmission authorities. The Chair again suggested that Mr. Benjamin submit something electronically for the Committee to review. He also noted that these issues may be more appropriate for Phase II.

Lastly, Kyle Davis of the Nevada Conservation League commented that the Committee seems to be on the right track.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.

**Minutes  
for  
Renewable Energy Transmission Access Advisory  
Committee Meeting**

October 19, 2007  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Capitol Building Annex  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada

**Committee Members Present:**

Daniel Schochet, Vice President, Ormat (Chair)  
Carolyn Barbash, Transmission Executive, Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power (Vice Chair)  
Christy Morris, Oil, Gas & Geothermal Program Manager, NV Division of Minerals (Vice Chair)  
Rebecca Wagner, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada  
Tim Carlson, President/CEO, Powered by Renewables  
Gary Wood, Renewable Energy Program Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Thomas Fair, Renewable Energy Executive, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific  
Jeneane Harter, President, HiTech Communications  
Brian Whalen, Transmission Planning Manager, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific

**Committee Members Absent:**

Dr. Raj Mehta, Deputy Director, Nevada State Office of Energy  
Joseph Greco, Vice President, Western Region, Caithness Energy  
Marion Barritt, Director, American Solar Energy Society  
Gilbert Cohen, Senior Vice President, Acciona Solar Power  
Gary Wayne, Director of Strategic Projects, SunPower Corporation

**Governor's Office:**

Dr. Hatice Gecol, Energy and Science Advisor to the Governor, and  
Director of Nevada State Office of Energy

**Members of the Public:**

Doug McLemore, Senior Mapping Systems Administrator, Nevada Power Company  
Vladimir Chadliev, Manager Renewable Energy Development, Nevada Power Company  
Eileen Wynkoop, Manager, Environmental Services, Nevada Power Company  
Connie Westadt, Assistant General Counsel, Sierra Pacific Power Company  
Pete Konesky, Staff Engineer, Nevada State Office of Energy

Ellen Allman, Business Manager, Caithness Energy  
Kerry Robinson, Wells Rural Electric  
Dave Pulliam, Chief, Habitat Division, Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Shawn Espinosa, Upland Game Staff Biologist, Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Kyle Davis, Nevada Conservation League  
Charles Benjamin, Director, Nevada Office of Western Resource Advocates  
Nicole Willis-Grimes, Public Policy Manager, The Ferraro Group

Welcome by Chairman Schochet. Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2007 Meeting

Daniel Schochet, Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order and made approving the minutes of the September 21st meeting the first order of business. Chairman Schochet asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes. Mr. Wood and Ms. Wagner, who participated by phone at the last meeting, requested that the minutes reflect them as present. Additionally, Ms. Wynkoop's name needed to be corrected. With the mentioned revisions, the September 21st minutes were approved.

### **Reports from Technology Subgroups and Discussions**

The Chair reinstated the objectives of the Committee due to the short time that is left to submit the final report. He stated that the objective is to recommend new transmission access for renewable energy projects in Nevada to the Governor. According to the Chair, this does not include redefining the extent of renewable energy in the state or the potential for export.

The Chair then asked to hear the results of each of the technology subgroups.

#### Solar Subgroup

Mr. Fair spoke on behalf of the Solar Subgroup. He explained that the subgroup and others met several weeks before and spoke about the solar potential in Clark and Nye Counties due to the fact that the resource is strongest in these areas. He stated that while there are extensive land areas in Southern Nevada that have solar potential, the environmental suitability and economics would need to be examined. Mr. Fair emphasized that because of these two factors, it is unknown how much of the areas reflected on the map would actually get developed. He also stated that the transmission grid is well developed in that part of Nevada and it is hard to say that there is a need for any particular action at this point to improve access. Because of this, there will be no recommendation made from the group with regard to transmission. Mr. Fair concluded that as long as the environmental and economic issues fell into place, there could be substantial solar development in Southern Nevada without the need for any major transmission projects.

Chairman Schochet asked if anyone had anything to add, and Mr. Konesky noted that the Federal Transmission Corridor, per Nevada's request, excluded the state which he feels concurs with what Mr. Fair was describing as far as transmission capabilities.

#### Biomass Subgroup

Mr. Konesky spoke on behalf of the Biomass Subgroup. He explained that the group is in the stage of giving Ms. Morris the information for the maps regarding the four areas that have prime biomass capability. The Chair asked if these four areas have existing transmission. Mr. Konesky replied (Could not hear response, due to paper shuffling). Chairman Schochet urged that Mr. Konesky get the information to the Transmission Subgroup as soon as possible.

#### Presentation by Mr. Robinson

Chairman Schochet introduced Mr. Robinson to make his presentation regarding Wells Rural Electric Cooperative's transmission system and how it can be used to access renewable energy projects in the vicinity. Mr. Robinson stated that currently he did not have a map and that he would be sending one to Ms. Morris. During his presentation, he referred to another presenter's map. He pointed out his company's current system and identified the transmission line locations, sizes and ownership.

### **Presentations by New Sub Groups and Discussions**

#### Presentation by Transmission Subgroup Given by Ms. Barbash

Ms. Barbash explained that the subgroup took the maps that the geothermal and wind subgroups had prepared with their prioritized areas (they did not have any maps from the solar or biomass subgroups) and created a map showing strictly transmission. She then pointed out the various priorities and identified the transmission deemed necessary by the group. Ms. Barbash also emphasized that the group just focused on interconnections, or access to the grid, not necessarily deliverability. Ms. Barbash concluded that the subgroup's intention is to get feedback on the map and then forward the information to the environmental group to review and determine feasibility.

The Chair asked Ms. Barbash if the data on the map reflected the company's Integrated Resource Plan filed with the Public Utilities Commission. Ms. Barbash stated that it does and explained that both Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power have a FERC process identified in their tariff where they do have requests from others to interconnect to their systems. Thus, the companies do have knowledge already of where some of the renewable resources are and some of that was used to drive the Resource Plan filing and their request for dollars to perform routing analysis. She concluded that due to this, it is no surprise that some of the information on the map would match up with the Resource Plans.

Mr. Wood asked if the information took into consideration a previous discussion regarding what could be injected into some of the current transmission systems, or how many megawatts the current systems could handle, to which Ms. Barbash restated that the subgroup focused on getting access to the grid and not deliverability. She explained that one could not figure what would be necessary to deliver the power once it gets into the existing grid until one knew the quantity, type of resource, etc.

Ms. Morris asked if design of the line would take into account interconnection or a collector system to which Ms. Barbash replied that it would depend on where the resources are developed, but one would need a collector system to either bring it into Gondor or somewhere along the intertie if it gets built. Ms. Morris then suggested that maybe this should be included in the developmental stages rather than afterwards for cost purposes. Ms. Allman asked for clarification as to what a collector system is. Ms. Barbash explained that it is a lower voltage system that could integrate plants utilizing different resources and then bring it into the 500 kV system. Mr. Whalen added that this is done by the company all the time and that there are not any major technical obstacles involved. He noted that it would be easier to do with money up front; however, not knowing exact details, such as the tap location, it would be a risky investment to include those types of facilities. Ms. Barbash recommended that this be a second phase issue and the Chair concurred.

#### Presentation by Environmental and Right of Way Sub Group Given by Ms. Wynkoop

Ms. Wynkoop explained that the group had just gotten the map and have not met as a group as of yet, but there will be large areas that are known to be difficult to permit. She suggested avoiding those areas.

Chairman Schochet asked if the group had looked at any of the projects included in the Resource Plan, and if so, do they have any comments. Ms. Wynkoop responded that there are only certain things that will stop a project and that everything else is the company ends up mitigating or avoiding. Ms. Barbash clarified that the Western Intertie is still up for resource planning approval for permitting purposes and not to construct it, so Ms. Wynkoop would not have looked at that project yet. The Chair then asked if Ms. Wynkoop looks at the route during the planning stage to avoid the certain areas that are difficult to permit beforehand. Ms. Wynkoop replied that she does not analyze the project until the routing of the line is looked at.

Ms. Allman asked if Ms. Wynkoop, in addition to transmission, would also comment on the zones. Ms. Wynkoop stated that she would and explained that the utility has people who have intimate knowledge of the specific areas that she will bring in.

#### Presentation by Report Preparation Subgroup Given by Ms. Harter

Ms. Harter provided a report outline to the Committee and stated that the group will add actual content once the outline has been approved. Chairman Schochet suggested that the Committee go through the outline and then go through what Ms. Harter needs from each of the subgroups.

Ms. Harter started by going through the proposed outline. During her presentation, she commented that she could work with Dr. Gecol on the “Need” and “Methodology” sections and Dr. Gecol agreed.

With regard to the “Background” section, Ms. Harter stated that she envisions it as being mostly copies of the maps that show the existing transmission system.

She then stated that the “Origin of the Maps” would describe the meeting called by Senator Reid that took place in February.

Ms. Harter stated the information for the “Findings” section would come from the minutes of the Committee meetings.

She then concluded that the “Recommendations” and “Next Steps” sections would obviously come at the end, once the recommendations of the Committee have been made. She also commented that she envisions the report as more of a narrative describing the maps.

Chairman Schochet addressed Dr. Gecol stating that he envisions the final report as being distributed electronically except for a few hard copies for those who need it. Dr. Gecol agreed and added that it would be posted to the Governor’s webpage as well.

### **Discussion on New Transmission Recommendations**

The Chair suggested that the Committee discuss how the final recommendations will be made by the Committee as a whole after reviewing all of the information. He requested that everyone contribute to this discussion and started with Mr. Wood:

Mr. Wood suggested that the final recommendation include where the greatest potential for the renewable resources are and what transmission capacity would be required to support those areas. He did question that once those resources are identified, if they would be narrowed down to those with even greater potential. To this, the Chair responded that a table could be included that would provide the potential capacity that each of the transmission lines can access with the emphasis that it is potential.

Ms. Allman also proposed that each recommendation be prioritized and have a “top three” for each resource. The Chair agreed and suggested that that information be sent to the Report Preparation Subgroup no later than October 26th. Mr. Fair concurred;

however, Ms. Wynkoop questioned whether it would be wise to prioritize before the information was reviewed. The Chair responded that there is not enough time for that, and commented that most of the projects Ms. Wynkoop will be reviewing are already in the Resource Plan and shouldn't be new information. Ms. Wynkoop responded that she is not familiar with the projects in the Resource Plan and that most of the information she will be reviewing for the first time. Chairman Schochet stated that the Committee is in the position to where all the information needs to be available so that a draft report is completed by the next meeting. Mr. Fair suggested that if his group could get their information to Ms. Allman by October 26th, perhaps Ms. Wynkoop could review that same input and it could help guide her focus on certain areas. Ms. Allman then noted that the geothermal and solar areas have already been prioritized and commented that she was hopeful the Wind Subgroup could do better than a week. Mr. Fair stated that they are ready to start prioritizing and that it should be done quickly.

Chairman Schochet requested any recommendations that Ms. Wagner had, and she responded that due to the impending Resource Plan, she was going to reserve her recommendations at this time. Mr. Whalen asked Ms. Wagner when the order for Sierra Pacific's Resource Plan would be finalized, to which she replied early December. Mr. Whalen suggested that that order should somehow be integrated into the final report of the Committee. Chairman Schochet agreed.

Mr. Carlson recommended that the intertie be emphasized in the recommendation as renewables are vital to the state in relationship to that line. He also noted that the Committee should stay away from referencing the coal plant associated with the intertie and focus more on the renewables. He concluded that a strong statement needs to be made in the final report that that line is critical and needs to be developed. He also recommended forcing the Air Force to state its position on this issue before the report is finalized so that it can be included in the final report. He contended that the Air Force's decision is vital and could have a major impact on the Committee's final recommendations. Chairman Schochet stated that he understood; however, the charge of the Committee is transmission access. He explained that the issue could be touched upon in the final report as being something that is currently on the table and could potentially effect the recommendations. He concluded that the Committee would not make a statement on any of the potential restrictions, including those other than the Air Force. The Chair suggested that the issue could be reviewed by another committee during the next phase and Mr. Carlson agreed and suggested referencing that in the report. Chairman Schochet agreed that recommending all potential restrictions be reviewed by another committee should be referenced, or foot-noted in the final report.

Ms. Wagner responded to Mr. Carlson's first statement regarding the intertie and its relationship to the coal plants. She commented that the line should not be mentioned without relating it to the approved coal plants, as the Public Utilities Commission approved that line based on the coal plants and renewables. Ms. Allman suggested referencing language from the approving order in the final report as background. Ms.

Wagner agreed. Mr. Fair also suggested applying the same methodology to the prioritization process as the best projects usually have multiple purposes and benefits which should not be ignored.

Chairman Schochet requested comments from Ms. Allman who recommended that emphasis should be put on the second phase recommendations and that the Committee should identify different committees that might result from this. The Chair agreed and pointed out that three elements of Phase II have already been identified: an in depth look at the environmental and permitting issues; the costs and how to cover those costs; and potential restrictions that could affect the recommended projects.

Mr. Whalen recommended that the need for a north-south tie line should not be underestimated as the abundance of renewable penetration available in the North, particularly wind, would be very difficult for the current system to handle. The Chair agreed.

Lastly, the Chair asked the rest of the Committee if they had any recommendations and/or comments to which they all responded that they agreed with the recommendations already mentioned and had nothing else to add.

### **Other Items**

#### Plan to Complete Study and Issue Report by 2007 Year End

The Chair noted that he would like to have a draft of the report by the next meeting and asked Ms. Harter when she would need all of the information by to make this happen. She responded no later than October 26<sup>th</sup>. She stated that she would like to send a copy of the draft to the Committee by November 9<sup>th</sup> so everyone has a chance to review it beforehand. Chairman then confirmed that there should be no issue with having the report finalized by the last meeting to which everyone agreed.

#### Schedule of Future Meetings

Chairman Schochet confirmed that the next meeting would be November 16, 2007.

### **Public Comments**

Chairman Schochet introduced Mr. Benjamin, Director of the Nevada Office of Western Resource Advocates, as the first provide public comment. Mr. Benjamin referred to his report that includes information on the various states who are utilizing Transmission Authorities. He explained that he gathered information on seven Transmission Authorities from seven different states as well as transmission incentives from Texas and Colorado.

He began with the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority. He explained that they were the first to form this type of authority three years ago at the request of their Legislature. The state's intention was to export coal and wind energy to California. He concluded that Wyoming is very serious about this issue and very well funded.

Mr. Benjamin discussed the Kansas Transmission Authority, whose interests were to enable wind resources and the large proposed coal plants out of Colorado which were just recently denied air permits. This Authority has the power to issue bonds and identify projects as well as issue Request for Proposals.

The Chair asked if the authorities were dependent on being able to build interstate transmission as opposed to intrastate, or the ability to link up with regional power groups. Mr. Benjamin responded that the authorities can and are linking up with other groups. Further, the various authorities are meeting as well with the intent to cooperate with each other.

Mr. Benjamin then described South and North Dakota's authorities as being created in 2005 by their legislatures. Although those states are ranked as having the highest potential for wind resources in the nation, they lack people so they are interested in exporting their respective energies.

Chairman Schochet asked if there have been any issues with these state's authorities interacting with the regulatory commissions to which Mr. Benjamin responded no there have not, and that there are specific revisions that require consultation with the Public Utilities Commissions.

Mr. Benjamin spoke of the Idaho authority and noted that they are not as far along with their projects.

Mr. Benjamin also referred to New Mexico's authority stating that theirs was the first one to mandate that at least thirty percent of the energy on any transmission created by this authority must come from renewables. Additionally, they prohibit anyone from serving on the board who has any special interest.

Mr. Benjamin described Colorado's authority. He stated that it was approved this year by the Colorado Legislature and just underway. This authority has already been authorized for \$65 million for funding wind and solar projects, and is very serious and aggressive with regard to renewables.

Lastly, Mr. Benjamin spoke of the renewable energy zones recognized both by Texas and Colorado. These are zones designated by the Public Utilities Commissions as having potential for renewable resources and given dates and targets to develop plans to construct the transmission to deliver the energy to customers from those zones.

Chairman Schochet requested that Mr. Benjamin provide his summary of how Nevada could benefit from considering the aforementioned state's experiences and methodologies even though Nevada has its own specific situations and needs that may or may not reflect those of the other states.

Ms. Barbash asked Mr. Benjamin if the ratepayers benefit due to the fact that these authorities do not pass on the costs of the transmission to them. He answered yes and emphasized that the authorities can convince Wall Street to issue bonds as they can back up their promise to pay for these bonds. Ms. Barbash then asked how the authority recovers its investment to which he responded eventually from the end users, or customers. Ms. Barbash questioned Mr. Benjamin further, asking if the customers end up paying anyways, then how do they benefit from the authorities. Mr. Benjamin opined that it is a benefit to both the utilities and the customers as they provide another mechanism for funding the projects.

Ms. Westadt asked if the authorities are jurisdictional to FERC, and Mr. Benjamin answered that they are not; however, he did note that they must adhere to all regulatory rules and orders.

Chairman Schochet concluded that this report could be added as an appendix to the Committee's final report and recommended that it be reviewed further during the second phase.

Summary overview provided by Mr. Benjamin reproduced here:

***State Created Transmission Infrastructure Authorities  
& State Created Incentives to Develop Transmission for Renewable Energy  
Presented to the Nevada Governor's Renewable Energy Transmission Access Advisory  
Committee October 19, 2007***

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***I. Wyoming Infrastructure Authority (WIA)***

***A. Creation: 2004 by Wyoming Legislature***

***B. Mission: Diversify and expand the state's economy through improvements in the transmission grid***

***C. Tools:***

- 1. Plan, finance, site, own, operate and otherwise promote transmission projects.***
- 2. \$1.6 million operating budget to support staff and consultants.***
- 3. \$10 million venture account to develop projects.***
- 4. \$1 billion in bonding capability to help finance projects.***

***D. Transmission Projects Underway:***

- 1. Wyoming-Colorado Intertie***
  - Route: NE Wyoming to Colorado Front Range***

- Sponsors: WIA, Trans-Elect, WAPA
  - Prospects: Wind & coal developers, PSCO and Colorado Springs utilities
2. Wyoming-West
    - Route: SW Wyoming to Utah hub, possibly to California
    - Sponsors: WIA, National Grid, WAPA
    - Prospects: Wind, with Utah and Southern California utilities
  3. TransWest Express
    - Route: Wyoming powder river basin via CO or UT to Arizona
    - Sponsors: Arizona Public Service, Salt River Project, SCE, Tucson, NationalGrid, WIA
    - Prospects: Coal and wind, sponsoring utilities in the desert southwest.
- E. Emerging Projects:
1. High Plains Express
    - Route: NE Wyoming south through eastern Colorado to New Mexico and Arizona, with drop-off and pick up points throughout the corridor.
    - Sponsors: PSCO, Trans-Elect, WAPA, SRP, other utilities.
    - Prospects: Completes the western loop with 500 kV capacity, could significantly enhance market liquidity.
    - Status: High-level feasibility study underway
  2. Frontier Line
    - Route: Wyoming to California, Desert Southwest and Pacific Northwest markets.
    - Sponsors: Initiated by four western governors. Feasibility study conducted by six "footprint utilities" completed 4/27.
    - Prospects: Partnership to move to a Phase II development study.
- II. **Kansas Electric Transmission Authority (KETA)**
- A. Creation: 2005 by Kansas Legislature, began operations in 2006.
  - B. Drivers for KETA's formation:
    1. Assist development of wind energy resources for eastern Kansas and export to other states.
    2. Increase ability to import and export fossil-fueled generation.
    3. Reduce large retail rate disparities in Kansas.
    4. Solve the problem of lack of new transmission construction by transmission owners in an increasingly constrained environment.
  - C. Mission: Ensure reliable operation of the electrical transmission system, diversify and expand the Kansas economy, and facilitate consumption of Kansas energy through improvements in the state's electric transmission infrastructure.
  - D. Authority: A public entity authorized by the state legislature to plan, finance, construct, develop, acquire, own and dispose of transmission facilities and to contract for maintenance and operation of transmission facilities.
  - E. Specific Powers:
    1. Enter into contracts with the Kansas Development Finance Authority to issue bonds and provide financing for projects.
    2. Recover costs through Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Regional Organization tariffs.
    3. Additional cost recovery through Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) assessments on Kansas retail customers.
  - F. Taxation of KETA activities:
    1. KETA does not pay Kansas income tax.
    2. KETA does not pay Kansas sales tax.

3. *KETA pays property tax the same as privately and cooperative owned utilities.*
  - G. *Relationship of KETA with state and local entities:*
    1. *State agencies and local government units must provide information, assistance and advice as requested by KETA.*
    2. *State agencies and local governments authorized to lease, lend, grant, or convey to KETA without public notice.*
  - H. *Limitations on KETA:*
    1. *All transmission projects must be accepted by SPP.*
    2. *Before KETA can proceed with construction a notice shall be published and private entities have 3 months to notify KETA they will build the project.*
    3. *If the project is not started within 180 days, KEA may proceed with the project.*
  - I. *KETA Governance:*
    - *Seven board members, three appointed by Governor with Senate confirmation.*
    - *Four year terms (staggered initially).*
    - *Four legislators (ex officio) – chairs and ranking minority members of Senate and House Utilities Committees.*
  - J. *Where KETA is today*
    1. *Finalizing analysis of two promising new transmission projects.*
    2. *Contracting for legal services.*
    3. *Evaluating best uses for the initial \$1 million of project development funding approved for FY 08.*
    4. *Building bridges to other states.*
- III. South Dakota Energy Infrastructure Authority (SDEIA)**
- A. *Creation: 2005 by South Dakota Legislature*
  - B. *Legislative Intent: Created to diversify and expand South Dakota's economy by developing the energy production facilities and the energy transmission facilities necessary to produce and transport energy to markets within the state and outside the state.*
  - C. *SDEIA Authority and obligations:*
    1. *May provide for financing, construction, development, maintenance, and operation of new or upgraded energy transmission facilities.*
    2. *May issue up to \$1 billion in revenue bonds to finance energy transmission facilities. All bond issuance must be approved by an act of the Legislature.*
    3. *Meet with any interested owner of transmission lines in S.D., and any interested generator and distributor of electricity to consumers in S.D.*
    4. *Report its findings and make recommendations to the Governor, Legislature and S.D. delegation to Congress.*
    5. *Evaluate state and federal laws affecting electric generation and transmission.*
    6. *Identify and communicate opportunities for cooperation between owners of transmission lines in S.D. and generators and distributors of electricity.*
    7. *Assist any entity that wants to build new or upgrade existing electric transmission facilities to, from and within S.D.*
    8. *Assist other state transmission authorities and any federal or regional entity wanting to build new or upgrade existing transmission facilities to deliver electricity to, from and within S.D.*
  - D. *Governance: SDEIA is governed by a five member board of directors, appointed by the Governor, who serve staggered 6 year terms and may be re-appointed.*
  - E. *SDEIA 2007 Energy Study:*
    1. *Assesses practicality and feasibility of electric generation from coal, nuclear and wind power as it would apply in S.D.*

2. *Opportunities include available land and water, good business and labor climate, supportive government policy and generally favorable regulatory process, great wind resource.*
  3. *Challenges include small market with small load growth, need to export energy.*
  4. *Transmission opportunities include:*
    - *Existing transmission could facilitate some additional transmission.*
    - *Existing utilities in S.D. willing and able to design and build additional transmission to serve current customers and are willing to undertake transmission improvements when and where new customers are willing to pay for additional transmission.*
    - *Investor-owned, independent transmission companies willing to build transmission when customers can be found.*
  5. *Transmission challenges include:*
    - *Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO), WAPA and Basin Issue.*
    - *Not adequate to move large blocks of electricity to high load centers.*
    - *Regional transmission.*
  6. *S.D. state government can advance production and transmission of electricity for in-state and export markets by:*
    - *Establishing S.D. government as being actively interested in assisting energy development.*
    - *Actively participate in the search for customers.*
    - *Considering and sponsoring innovative combinations of generation sources and loads.*
    - *Actively addressing MISO seams issues.*
    - *Sponsoring multi-state action on transmission corridors.*
    - *Ensuring competitive rail service.*
    - *Reviewing and adjusting state tax structures.*
- F. *Current Status of Transmission Projects in S.D.*
- A. *Big Stone II – 630 MW Coal Fired Generation and new transmission line from Big Stone, S.D. to Canby, MN and an upgrade of line from Canby to Granite Falls, MN at 230 kV and Big Stone to Canby portion at 345 kV.*
  - B. *New transmission line from Big Stone, S.D. to Otonville, MN with upgraded line from Otonville to Johnson Junction to Morris, MN.*
  - C. *Estimated Costs - \$225-265 million.*
  - D. *CapX 2020 – Brookings, S.D.-Southeast Twin Cities to improve reliability throughout West Central Minnesota, the Red River Valley, and Twin Cities along with enabling access to new generation, including projected wind resources to be built in the area; approximately 230 miles; 245 kV; targeted in-service 2012-2014.*

#### **IV. North Dakota Transmission Authority**

- A. *Creation: 2005 by N.D. state legislature (unanimous in both houses)*
- B. *Governance: Governor, Attorney General, Agriculture Commissioner.*
- C. *Authority:*
  - *Developer of last resort.*
  - *May own, contract for construction, operate*
  - *May partner with others.*
  - *Financing primarily from revenue bonds (\$800 million)*
  - *No fiscal appropriation*
  - *Must provide exit strategy*
- D. *Key Powers*
  - *Make grants or loans*
  - *Execute contracts*
  - *Borrow money, issue bonds*

- Receive grants
  - Enter lease-sales contracts
  - Construct, maintain, and operate transmission facilities
  - Investigate, plan, prioritize and propose corridors
  - Participate in and join regional transmission organizations
  - Do any and all things necessary ...
- E. Application Process
- Application (project developer)
  - Assessment (NDIC) – 60 days
  - Notice of Intent (NDIC)
  - Responses (transmission providers) - 180 days
  - Preliminary determination (NDIC) – 60 days
  - Decision (NDIC)
- F. Long term goals
- Increase awareness of N.D.'s abundant energy resources.
  - Coordinate efforts to resolve transmission constraints in Dakotas and Minnesota.
  - Facilitate construction of new transmission lines to connect N.D. energy with MN markets.
- V. Idaho Energy Resources Authority (IERA)**
- A. Creation: 2005 by the Idaho legislature
- B. Governance: Seven member board of directors appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate, for six year terms.
- C. Mission: Diversify and expand the state's economy through improvements in Idaho's electric generation and transmission infrastructure to allow the development or expansion of electric facilities in Idaho or the import of low-cost energy from other parts of the region. IERA can participate in planning, financing, constructing, developing, acquiring, maintaining and operating electric generation and transmission facilities and their supporting infrastructure. IERA has bonding authority and other powers to promote transmission development in the state and the region.
- D. Goals and objectives:
- Seek high-quality utility-related generation and transmission projects that the Authority deems to be of high-value/low risk.
  - Build a successful loan portfolio; issuing bonds to finance new transmission lines and facilities (substations, switching stations, etc.) or expand existing transmission lines and facilities required to support new generation facilities or greater energy transfer requirements in the state or the region.
  - Own transmission facilities in those instances where private investment is no offered or available or where private investment does not offer the lowest cost alternative to the constituents or participating utilities of the IERA.
  - Enter into partnerships with public or private entities to finance the building and/or upgrading of transmission lines or facilities.
- VI. New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA)**
- A. Creation: 2007 by New Mexico state legislature
- B. Rationale: RETA sold as an economic expansion tool to facilitate development of in-state renewable energy resources for export to out-of-state markets needing to satisfy RPS and other policies.
- C. Renewable Energy Emphasis: >30% of energy in RETA acquired or constructed transmission infrastructure must be renewable. Up to 70% may be from traditional sources.
- D. Governance: 8 member board of directors, none of whom "shall represent a person that owns or operates facilities":

- 3 appointed by Governor, w/consent of Senate
  - 1 appointed by Speaker of the House
  - 1 appointed by President of the Senate
  - State Treasurer
  - State Investment Officer
  - EMNR Department Cabinet Secretary (non-voting)
- E. RETA has financing (revenue bonds), contracting and eminent domain powers to develop projects.
- F. RETA can finance storage projects defined as “technologies that convert, store, and return electricity to help alleviate disparities between electric supply and demand ... (or) ... to facilitate the dispatching of electricity.”
- G. Project implementation:
1. RETA first identifies “projects” (transmission infrastructure driven by one or more renewable and traditional power generators)
  2. RETA issues RFP to determine private sector’s interest in constructing and operating the facilities.
  3. RETA only proceeds on its own to construct facilities in the absence of private sector interests.
  4. Any project related to or affecting in-state retail rates or reliability must be approved by the NM Public Regulation Commission, NMs elected utility commission.
- G. RETA developed projects exempt from state gross receipts (sales) and compensating taxes.
- H. Interstate Projects: RETA may finance or acquire “facilities located in whole or in part within the state of NM.”
- I. Coordination with Regional Transmission Initiatives: “through participation in appropriate regional transmission forums, coordinate, plan and negotiate with entities within and outside the state for the establishment of interstate transmission corridors.”

**VII. Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority (CCEDA)**

- A. Creation: 2007 by Colorado Legislature.
- B. Governance: 9 member board of directors with the director of the Governor’s Office of Energy Management and Conservation as chairman.
- B. Duties and Powers:
- Hire employees as necessary.
  - Maintain records and accounts as required by the State Auditor.
  - Convene task forces to develop proposed recommendations regarding the types of clean energy projects that the authority should finance.
  - Finance projects and enter into financing agreements.
  - Issue bonds and refunding bonds.
  - Enter into contracts and financing agreements as necessary.
  - Use moneys in the Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority to make loans or enter into other financing agreements.
  - Use any portion of the fund to secure the payment of bonds or other obligations.
  - Receive and accept gifts, grants and donations.
  - Enter into contracts or agreements as necessary.
  - Sell, with or without public bidding, notes, bonds, loans or other secured or unsecured obligations.
- C. Bonding Authority
- Issue bonds to provide moneys used for clean energy development and improvements in the state’s electric transmission infrastructure.

- Purchase bonds out of available funds and/or resell bonds according to agreements with bondholders.
- C. *Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority Fund*
- Consists of gifts, grants, donations, revenues paid to the authority by public entities and other persons using projects financed by the authority, and moneys appropriated by the Colorado General Assembly.
  - Moneys in the fund will be used to pay operating costs of the authority, finance projects, or pay for or secure bonds or other obligations incurred by the authority.
  - No bonds or other obligations may be paid from or secured by tax revenue.
  - Unless voters of Colorado have approved bonds or other obligations, no moneys in the fund other than those specifically earmarked for that purpose may be used to pay or secure bonds or other obligations.
  - Voter approval required for the authority to incur multi-year obligations.
  - Authority is authorized to finance a wind energy transmission facility project of up to \$40 million and/or a solar energy project up to \$25 million.
  - For any given fiscal year, the aggregate amount of scheduled payments of all outstanding bonds issued by the authority is limited to \$8 million.
  - Prior to issuance of bonds, the authority is required to obtain assurance to guarantee the completion of the project.
  - No authority bonds or obligations will become a state liability.
  - Income or revenue of the authority, all property owned by the authority, and any bonds or obligations issued by the authority are exempt from all state taxation.
  - Authority expenses are payable solely from authority money.
  - The authority may borrow money to cover initial start up expenses.
  - The authority is authorized to file a petition in state district court requesting a judicial determination on any contract.
  - The authority is prohibited from financing a project subject to regulation by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission without receiving prior approval from the commission.
  - The authority must keep accurate records of all activities, receipts and expenditures and the State Auditor may investigate the affairs of the authority and examine its properties and records.
  - The authority is required to submit a report on its activities to the governor and specified committees of the General Assembly by February 1 of each year which must include a complete operating and financial statement covering the authority's operations for the previous year.

**VIII. Texas Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZs)**

*In 1999 the Texas legislature established a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) for electric power generation, expressing legislative intent that an additional 2,000 megawatts of capacity from renewable energy technologies, above a baseline of 880 megawatts, be installed in Texas by January 1, 2009. Senate Bill 20, effective September 1, 2005, raises that additional amount to 5,000 megawatts, for a cumulative total of 5,880 megawatts, to be installed by January 1, 2015. It sets intermediate requirements to be met by January 1, 2007, and by each of the next four two-year anniversaries of that date. The bill further requires the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to set a target of 10,000 megawatts of renewable capacity to be installed by January 1, 2025, and to set a target for at least 500 megawatts of capacity installed after September 1, 2005, to be from a source other than wind power. The PUC must designate competitive renewable energy zones sufficient to develop the new generating capacity and must develop a plan to construct transmission capacity to deliver to customers the electric output from those zones. The bill sets certain other implementation mandates for the commission and directs the*

*PUC to require the construction or enlargement of transmission or transmission-related facilities to meet the goal. The bill directs the PUC to submit a report to the legislature not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year that includes an evaluation of its implementation of competitive renewable energy zones, the estimated costs of transmission service improvements needed for each zone, and an evaluation of the effects that additional renewable generation has on system reliability and on the cost of alternatives to mitigate the effects. The PUC and officials of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas also must study the need for increased transmission and generation capacity generally throughout the state and must report to the legislature biennially on that topic by the same deadline.*

**IX. Colorado Transmission for Energy Resource Zones**

- A. *Creation: 2007 by Colorado legislature*
- B. *On or before October 31, 2007, Colorado electric utilities subject to rate regulation must undertake biennial reviews to designate areas of the state as “Energy Resource Zones” where transmission constraints hinder the delivery of electricity.*
- C. *These utilities must develop and submit plans for the construction of additional transmission capacity in these zones to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC).*
- D. *The PUC is required to grant or deny any necessary certificates of public necessity and convenience within 180 days if the PUC finds that:*
  - 1. *the construction or expansion is required to ensure reliable delivery of electricity to consumers or enable the utility to meet the state’s renewable energy standards; and*
  - 2. *the present or future public convenience and necessity require such construction or expansion.*
- E. *Utilities are allowed to recover costs during construction through a rate adjustment clause on any transmission facilities for which a certificate has been issued or for which it has been determined that a certificate is not needed.*
- F. *The PUC is required to approve cost recovery on the total balance of construction work currently in progress related to such transmission facilities.*
- G. *There are currently only two investor-owned utilities in Colorado that are subject to rate regulation – Xcel Energy and Aquila Energy. The Colorado legislature did not believe that reviewing applications for certificates of public necessity and convenience from these utilities related to transmission constraints in designated energy resource zones would significantly impact PUC workload.*

The next speaker was Mr. Davis, from the Nevada Conservation League who emphasized the importance of the north-south intertie for renewable development.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.

**Minutes  
for  
Renewable Energy Transmission Access Advisory Committee Meeting**

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Capitol Building Annex  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, NV

**Committee Members Present:**

Daniel Schochet, Vice President, Ormat (Chair)  
Christy Morris, Oil, Gas & Geothermal Program Manger, NV Division Of Minerals  
Jeneane Harter, President, HiTech Communications  
Brian Whalen, Transmission Planning Manager, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific  
Rebecca Wagner, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada  
Thomas Fair, Renewable Energy Executive, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific

**Committee Members Absent:**

Carolyn Barbash, Transmission executive, Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power (Vice Chair)  
Tim Carlson, President/CEO, Powered by Renewables

**Governor's Office:**

Dr. Hatice Gecol, Energy and Science Advisor to the Governor and Director of Nevada State Office of Energy

**Members of the Sub-Committees and Public:**

Matt Tuma, Senator Harry Reid's office  
Vladimir Chadliev, Manager Renewable Energy Development, Nevada Power Company  
Ellen Allman, Business Manager, Caithness Energy  
Pete Konesky, Staff Engineer, Nevada State Office of Energy  
Gary Wood, Renewable Energy Program Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Eileen Wynkoop, Manager, Environmental Sciences, Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power Company  
Doug Bierman, Intertech Services Corp – Lincoln County  
Russ Mason, Nevada Division of Wildlife  
John O'Donnell, Ausra Power Development  
Newton DeBardeleben, Sierra Pacific Power  
Fred Schmidt, Hale Lane

Welcome by Chairman and Approval of Minutes from October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting:

Chairman Daniel Schochet called the meeting to order and the minutes were approved.

20 minutes were set aside for discussion of additional information by the sub-groups for preparing the report.

### **Sub-group Reports**

Solar: Nothing new.

Biomass: Will review new information received from Mt. Charleston's biomass for possible inclusion in report.

Chairman added that all related maps are a work in progress and new information may be added after completion of the report. Two objectives in the 2008 Phase II: First how to finance the transmission they are recommending, and second, to refine the maps once they have a much clearer route.

Wind: Nothing to add. Chairman brought up DOD and some changes in the way they will be viewing "wind zones". Wind group added that there have been some indications that the DOD is willing to make some decisions on certain projects in the near future, although it is still somewhat unclear as to what process is being used to make these decisions.

Geothermal: Nothing to report.

Other Groups (Wildlife): A discussion followed regarding the possible listing of the Sage Grouse as an endangered species and the effect the listing would have on the future of land use. There have been prior problems with geothermal projects funded by DOE proceeding without the input of the Department of Wildlife and the impact on Sage Grouse habitat.

Chairman added that maps showing areas of constraint should be addressed during Phase II.

Jeneane Harter suggested including a few sentences addressing this issue in the report, stating that the issue will be dealt with at a later date.

Russ Mason also added that from NDOW's point of view, the Sage Grouse section of the report is inaccurate and needs to be revised. He agreed to provide the suggested revisions to Jeneane Harter by Monday.

Chairman suggested including a paragraph in the report listing all constraints and referencing links to associated maps on various websites. It was suggested that all maps be done in GIS format and sent to Christy by the Monday following Thanksgiving. Russ will also provide some written material on issues concerning raptors to Jeneane, who will boil it down for the report.

Presentations by new subgroups

Transmission subgroup: Brian Whalen said that he was bothered by the “Transmission Authority” reference. Chairman Schochet said that the topic would be covered in Phase II.

Environmental and Right of Way subgroup: Eileen Wynkoop reported that they met with NDOW, Shawn Espinosa, Kyle Davis, Charles Benjamin, and drafted a report identifying constraint areas. They prepared a map and determined the following five areas:

Level One: Highest constraint, areas where nothing can be built. This would include Wilderness Study Areas, etc.

Level Two: Less suitable for transmission lines, because of unique, high value, or protected resources. These areas are where Russ wants to incorporate Sage Grouse habitat.

Level Three: Moderate constraints, valued resources, some possible conflicts, avoidance areas, critical environments, national trails, private land, etc.

Level Four: Low constraint.

Level Five: Unresolved. Administrative restriction, military areas.

These maps show existing transmission lines. Proposed transmission lines will be added later.

A map showing Sage Grouse habitat was displayed and explained by Russ Mason. It was decided that the issue would be dealt with in Phase II, after the court decision on listing of the Sage Grouse. There are also maps available showing Big Horn and raptor habitat. Russ also explained that wherever a power line goes, it will attract ravens, which prey on Sage Grouse.

Christy Morris proposed presenting NDOW maps, along with data from all other maps, so that developers can see all areas: general constraints, military areas, and color code them.

Chairman Schochet reminded the committee that this report deals with transmission, not Sage Grouse. That will come along later in the detailed planning process.

At this point, Commissioner Rebecca Wagner joins the meeting.

### **Discussion of Report and Recommendations for Additions/Modifications**

Chairman Schochet thanked Jeneane Harter for preparing the draft structure of the report, and had suggested including a page showing the support of the Governor, perhaps a copy of the proclamation. His first recommendation was that transmission lines be built, along with some branches for developer access, not to exceed 25 miles. Second, he recommended that the NPC planned “EN-ti transmission line” be built, and be called a “North-South Connection”. This “EN-ti” should have the capacity for renewables to allow Nevada Power’s transmission from the northern part of the state to meet their non-solar RPS by including geothermal power.

Third, the issues not yet discussed, including CREZ zones, the idea of a Transmission Authority, and how to pay for transmission, should all be deleted or just mentioned in passing and should be a consideration for Phase II.

Commissioner Rebecca Wagner recommended deleting any reference to the Transmission Authority, since it has not been thoroughly vetted yet.

Jeneane Harter said that she did not have any new comments for today's meeting, but that she would redraft the report based on what was discussed in today's meeting and get it out to her report committee.

Chairman Schochet thought it would be good to include a "public comments" section in the report to include comments received but not yet vetted.

Tom Fair felt that the committee should either make an explicit statement that the committee did not endorse the idea of a Transmission Authority, or not bring it up at all. He also felt that with regard to transmission routing that is a process that has its own way of proceeding, and that a Phase II committee maybe should not get into transmission routing.

Chairman Schochet brought up that the committee looking at the feasibility and cost should really include the routing as part of the feasibility. The committee would not actually be doing the routing, but could work with the utility to determine feasible routes.

Ellen Allman suggested that Phase II also consider listing estimated megawatts. It was decided that the overall estimated megawatts would be included in a table.

Doug Biernan requested that the megawatts be left out of the report because a table would not show combined resources. It was then decided to leave the table of megawatts out of the report, and just include a link to a site, such as the Western Governor's Association, which would list reports on megawatts on their website. Priority zones would be left on the maps.

NSOE Director Hatice Gecol recommended including a section on challenges to the new transmission in the report. The Chairman agreed with this suggestion.

Gary Wood posed the question of how to let people know how zones were prioritized, if the megawatts were not shown. Christy pointed out that the zones are covered in the report under "Committee Methodology" and how the subcommittees prioritized the zones.

Chairman suggested that once more updates were made to each subcommittees report section; draft revisions should be circulated within the subcommittees first, before making them available to the rest of the committee.

Maps for the report will be made available electronically, so there should not be a problem with making them an appropriate size for the report format.

Brian mentioned that his only concern was that the report would come across as saying there was a problem with the transmission provider's transmission expansion efforts in the state of Nevada. He wanted some text added to the report so an independent party picking the report up could see the extremely aggressive efforts previously made, and being made, by the company to expand its transmission system.

Commissioner Wagner suggested incorporating a few words about the resource planning process. She would provide this information.

Brian brought up the possibility of including the DOE 368 draft in the report; Rebecca said that the 368 Corridors would impact Nevada, because the programmatic EIS would streamline the process.

Chairman suggested adding some timing to the recommendations, considering pending RPS requirements, so it should be recommended that the new transmissions allow renewables to be accessed in order to meet the RPS requirements. This would mean before 2015, and should be added to recommendation One.

Tom Fair mentioned that as a standalone document, the report would not tell what has already been done in the state. It was suggested that a page or two be added to the appendix with this information, or perhaps a separate section dedicated to the status of renewable energy development in Nevada.

A reference will be made at the request of Sierra Pacific, to the decision reached by their routing and siting study, which should be completed by December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Pete suggested showing potential for transmission in each zone on a map.

**Plan to complete and issue report by 2007 year end:**

Jeneane requested that everyone get their material to her this week, so she could have it cleaned up by after Thanksgiving, and then get together with a working group the week after Thanksgiving. Final draft to be ready by December 17<sup>th</sup>, with any last minute changes being made at the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. It would go to Dr. Gecol to be put on the Governor's website on Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Schedule for December meeting:**

December 21st

## Public Comment

Charles Benjamin Nevada office of Western Resource Advocates: Sent out an electronic copy of his comments summary that is going to be included in the addendum of public comments since it has not been vetted out yet.

Doug Bierman: Thanked the committee for including the smaller counties in this process.

Meeting adjourned.

Additional comment provided by NDOW following the November meeting. Contributors were Mr. Russ Mason and Mr. Dave Pullium of the Nevada Division of Wildlife. Text provided here in full:

*Sage Grouse lekking, nesting, and brood rearing habitat, bighorn sheep lambing habitat, raptor nest locations, and other wildlife and habitat information are not assigned specific constraint levels. Depending on site-specific context, level 2, 3, or 4 constraints may apply. The sub group recognized the importance of avoiding important areas whenever possible and mitigating actions in situations where impacts could not be avoided. Sage grouse are a Nevada species of concern, and there is growing likelihood that additional petitions to list sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act will be entertained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A very general map of sage grouse lekking, nesting, and brooding habitat is included on Figure 2.*

*The development of renewable energy resources and associated transmission corridors has potential for serious, negative environmental impacts. Of particular concern are sage grouse, raptors, bighorn sheep, and significant wetlands. For grouse, issues include destruction and disruption of historical leks and degradation of nesting and brood-rearing habitat ([www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov); [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org)). For raptors, issues of compliance regarding take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, can be addressed by guidance provided by the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee ([www.aplic.org](http://www.aplic.org)) and raptor management guidelines currently being developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For bighorn sheep, issues include development in lambing areas, spread of noxious weeds, increased access and human disturbance in locations where the species is now present, as well as areas where the species was historically present and may pioneer or be introduced as part of continuing efforts to restore bighorn sheep populations throughout Nevada. Significant wetlands provide critical habitat for a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds. More detailed maps appear on the NDOW website ([www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org)). Because avoidance and mitigation activities for sage grouse, raptors, bighorn sheep, migratory birds, and bats are site-specific, developers of renewable energy and electrical transmission corridors must (a) proactively cooperate with NDOW to identify siting and mitigation plans, (b) avoid disturbance of sensitive locations when possible, (c) fund and implement mitigation actions identified by the Department, (d) fund and conduct post-construction monitoring to assure that development has not had unforeseen impacts and cooperate with NDOW to implement additional steps as needed. NDOW appreciates the need for renewable alternatives to fossil fuels and will cooperate to assure responsible development with minimum environmental impact.*

**Minutes  
for  
Renewable Energy Transmission Access Advisory Committee Meeting**

December 21st, 2007  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Capitol Building Annex  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, NV

**Committee Members Present:**

Dan Schochet, Vice President, Ormat (Chair)  
Christy Morris, Oil, Gas & Geothermal Program Manager, NV Division of Minerals  
Brian Whalen, Transmission Planning Manager, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific  
Rebecca Wagner, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada  
Thomas Fair, Renewable Energy Executive, Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific  
Ellen Allman on behalf of Joe Greco, Business Manager, Caithness Energy  
Jeneane Harter, President, HiTech Communications  
Gilbert Cohen, Acciona Solar Power  
Tim Carlson, President/CEO, Powered by Renewables

**Committee Members Absent:**

Carolyn Barbash, Transmission executive, Sierra Pacific and Nevada Power (Vice Chair)  
Gary Wood, Renewable Energy Program Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Marion Barritt, Director, American Solar Energy Society  
Gary Wayne, Director of Strategic Projects, SunPower Corporation  
Dr. Raj Mehta, ex-Deputy Director, Nevada State Office of Energy

**Governor's Office:**

Dr. Hatice Gecol, Energy and Science Advisor to the Governor Jim Gibbons and Director of Nevada State Office of Energy

**Members of the Sub-Groups and Public:**

Vladimir Chadliev, Manager Renewable Energy Development, Nevada Power Company  
Eileen Wynkoop, Manager, Environmental Sciences, Nevada Power Company  
Russ Mason, Chief, Game Division Nevada Department Of Wildlife  
Dave Pulliam, Chief, Habitat Division, Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Doug McLemore, Nevada Power Company  
Don Reid, Managing Director, Global Finance Corporation  
John O'Donnell, Executive Vice President, Ausra, Inc.  
Lorayn Walser, Grants and Project Analyst, Nevada State Office of Energy

Welcome by Chairman and Approval of Minutes from November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting:  
Chairman Dan Schochet called the meeting to order and the minutes were approved with corrections from Eileen Wynkoop being emailed in.

### **Discussion on issues of Draft Report**

Chairman Dan Schochet said that the discussion today is to involve the committee only, as the public comment period has ended. The mission of this report is to propose improved access to the grid system for renewables, not to discuss RPS matters, constraints, or endangered species, etc. No new information is to be discussed today.

Chairman Schochet thanked the committee and sub committees for working so hard on this report.

Ellen Allman spoke on behalf of Joe Greco, who had requested that she replace him as a committee member. Joe also thought that financing and rate recovery should be discussed in the finance section of the report. He also suggested developing a timeframe for Phase II within the report.

Chairman Schochet asked Commissioner Rebecca Wagner about how she felt that the rate recovery recommendation. Commissioner Wagner said to suggest mechanisms, as a rate recovery change would be a legislative matter. It was decided that “financing options” was a better term to use.

He also suggested that a Phase I timeframe should allow for public comments, and time for the committee to review them. Public comment would begin on February 1, 2008, and Phase II would run from March – December 2008.

Commissioner Wagner was uncomfortable with some of the wording in the Executive Summary of the report. She suggested replacing #1 and #2 “Build transmission lines” with “support construction of transmission lines”, because that is really what they are asking the Governor to do. She suggested these changes also be made on page 10 of the report.

Christy Morris had some corrections for Figure Two: 1. the existing transmission lines ended up being buried on the map, and 2. one label was missing for one of the wind zones.

Tom Fair suggested changing the phrase (page four of the report) from “focus on areas of dense high potential” to “focus on areas that contain numbers of locations with medium to high potential”.

Brian Whalen had a question regarding Recommendation #1 on page ten of the report. He felt that “distribution” should be changed to “collection systems should be located, when feasible, within 25 miles of the”...

Director Gecol had a question regarding the thirteen connection lines and potential confusion for people unfamiliar with Nevada. She suggested possibly adding numbers to each of the lines on the map or adding a table that lists the counties where transmission lines go through.

Ellen Allman and Christy Moore both felt that it might be too confusing to add more numbers to the map, and Chairman Schochet suggested perhaps creating a table showing the end points of the lines.

Christy Morris said that she would work on getting a table ready by the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Director Gecol also suggested moving the Chairman’s comments page to before the table of contents or earlier in the report. She also mentioned that some of the names of subgroup participants were missing from the list in the report. A discussion followed and several names were added. A Non-Committee Subgroup participants category will also be added to the report.

### **Plan to complete the study and issue report by 2007 year end**

The final draft will be ready on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Christy will send this to committee members, but it will not be released to the public or to the press until after it has been presented to the Governor and posted on the Governor’s website.

Director Gecol said that the Governor wants to have one more meeting to thank the committee, and they would then present the report to the Governor. She will give the committee a list of dates that the Governor will be available. After he has been presented with the report, it can be made available to the public and to the press. Ormat and Sierra Pacific will be providing a lunch for the committee following the presentation to the Governor.

Chairman Schochet again thanked the public for the important input, a lot of which was used on maps and incorporated into the report: wildlife issues, environmental constraints, etc. He then launched a discussion among the committee members for suggestions to the Governor for appointing a successor committee for Phase II.

Tim Carlson felt that the new committee should be a continuation of this committee.

Chairman Schochet said that the new committee was going to need more specialized input than what the current committee can offer.

Tim Carlson agreed that bringing in specialists to serve on the subcommittees worked very well and should be done again.

Brian Whalen suggested that due to the routing, siting, and constraint issues faced in Phase II, it would be good to have Eileen Wynkoop moved up to committee status.

Eileen Wynkoop said that she felt that the timeline for Phase II would not work, because to have an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) done sometimes takes 3-4 years.

Chairman Schochet suggested looking at the feasibility of the project and to include BLM and NDOW members on the new committee to help streamline the process.

Russ Mason brought up the ever present Sage Grouse issue and suggested not getting too specific with the plans because a listing of the Sage Grouse would change everything.

Christy Morris said that she thinks that Phase II is going to be a two pronged process: financial and environmental.

Chairman Schochet recommended taking a generic look at the financing and environmental challenges, and work on the feasibility aspect. The end of Phase II should be who “how to do it” rather than worrying about prioritizing the zones, which should happen as they come up with criteria that may rule out certain areas.

Jeneane Harter asked about what the work product would be for Phase II. Chairman Schochet said that it would be a proposed methodology that could include legislation, the feasibility of permitting, and financing.

Chairman Schochet said that he would like to see someone replace Carolyn from the utility company who has experience in financing transmission projects.

Jeneane Harter suggested adding someone from a consumer advocate group.

Chairman Schochet concluded that all of these suggestions can be given to the Governor for forming a Phase II committee. He then passed along a comment received from Harry Reid’s office, that the committee was “partial to geothermal and to the utility companies”

Commissioner Wagner said that although geothermal energy is probably the most available in Nevada, she did not feel that the committee was favoring it.

Tim Carlson said that he thought the comment should have been made directly to the committee.

Gilbert Cohen added that he had no problem with geothermal because the transmission lines would run throughout the state anyway.

### **Public Comment**

John O'Donnell: His company is opening an assembly plant in Las Vegas for solar collectors manufacturing, and a solar thermal power plant in central California. He met with Governor Gibbons to discuss exporting solar energy to California for their RPS. Arizona has been reluctant to export to California but Governor Gibbons is interested in exporting energy. He thinks there are similar groups in Colorado and New Mexico that we could talk to. Dan invited him to leave these comments on the website once it is available.

Don Reid, Solar Millennium: His company builds solar thermal plants all over the world, and he agreed that Nevada has the supply to meet the demand in Nevada, California and in the region. It was also suggested that he post comments to the website when it is available.

Dave Pulliam said that he appreciated the possible inclusion of NDOW in the Phase II committee, and that it is critical to recognize the situation with possible Sage Grouse listing. The Governor and his agency (NDOW) do not want to see the Sage Grouse get listed. Both he and Russ Mason are trying to get things put into place that will be able to develop renewable energy in a smart and effective way that doesn't add cumulatively to the justification put out there to see usage curtailed. And in Nevada on public land in particular is 86%. So we're committed to the wildlife resource, we're committed to working with the committee to work to a positive end with regard to the issues we are all faced with and I'd like to just emphasize that the listing of the Sage Grouse is critically on the mind of the Governor, as we have met twice this week with the Governor and with the secretary of the Interior on that very issue. We do not want to see cumulative impacts continuing to effect these species and result in some kind of a listing that is not going to be good for any of us, around this table, or around any of the other tables in Nevada so thank you.

Chairman Schochet: Meeting adjourned.