Transmission Line Siting Compact

By
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2012 National Conference [2]

CSG National Center for Interstate Compacts
Transmission Line Siting Compact
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The siting of interstate electricity transmission lines has long been a problem for both states and the federal government. With the expected growth in electricity demand—combined with the need to bring renewable energy to market and the necessity to enhance and secure the nation’s energy infrastructure—the need for added transmission capacity in the United States has never been more critical. Attendees learned more about a member-driven initiative aimed at improving the siting process through common applications, pre-determined timelines and coordinated public hearings during this session. This new compact will be ready for legislative introduction beginning in 2013. Subject matter experts discussed the need for the compact, the development process and specific areas covered by the new interstate agreement.

- Capitol Ideas Today: "New Compact Aims to Ease Transmission Line Siting Process [3]"

Session Summary:
In Title XII, Subtitle B, Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Congress granted the consent for three or more contiguous states to enter into an interstate compact facilitating siting of future electric transmission facilities. As a result CSG, at the request of its membership, has been working to develop an interstate transmission line siting compact. The agreement is intended to improve efficiencies and create standardization during the siting process by establishing common applications, predetermined timelines and uniform public comment periods. Such an agreement, and its requirements, would be triggered on a regional basis and pertain only to those states that are both members of the compact and impacted by the proposed line.

Speakers and Presentations:

- North Dakota Rep. Kim Koppelman, Co-Chair
- Kansas Rep. Tom Sloan, Co-Chair
- Bill Smith, Executive Director of the Organization of MISO States

Speaker Biographies:

- Rep. Kim Koppelman
  Koppelman has represented District 13 in the North Dakota House of Representatives since 1994. He is chair of the Constitutional Revision and Administrative Rules Committees and has held several other leadership positions, including vice chair of the Judiciary and Administrative Rules Committees. He also serves on the Judiciary and Political Subdivisions Committees and the Judicial Planning Committee. He served as the 2008 CSG national chair. Back to speakers.

- Rep. Tom Sloan
  Rep. Sloan was first elected to the Kansas House in 1994. He has served as chair of the Special Joint
Committee on Energy, chair of the Higher Education Committee, vice chair of the Utilities Committee, and vice chair of the Government Efficiency and Technology Committee. He has served as chairman of two Discussion Groups on Electric Transmission Issues at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and is the only state legislative member of the U.S. Department of Energy’s 30-member Electricity Advisory Committee. Back to speakers.

**Rep. Jeff Morris**

Rep. Morris was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1996. He has served as speaker pro tempore, House floor leader, eight years as chair of the Technology, Energy and Communications Committee and chair of Finance. As Principal of Energy Horizon LLC, Jeff directs the Pacific Northwest Economic Region’s Energy Portfolio and consults for energy companies on commercialization and project development. Jeff is the past director of the Northwest Energy Technology Collaborative at the Washington Technology Center.

**Bill Smith**

Smith began as executive director of the Organization of MISO States in January 2004. Previously, he was government relations manager for the Iowa Utilities Board, and coordinated the Board’s legislative positions and its representation before federal agencies. He earlier directed the Board’s rate and safety staff. Before 1986, Smith served as a legal advisor to commissioners of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and practiced energy law in a Washington, D.C. firm.