

NW Energy Coalition
Proposal for Vision Statement and RRG Decision-Making

Steve Weiss - July 17, 2003

Proposed Vision Statement

Work as a region to ensure that the transmission system is operated and developed (as necessary) to provide efficient and reliable delivery of power at least cost to consumers and the environment.

Goals for RRG Decision-Making

- RRG decisions that carry weight but do not override the rights of filing utilities to make filings.
- Fair representation of stakeholders, with voting strength reflective of the impact decisions will have on each group's interests.
- "Near-consensus" required to reflect need for widespread buy-in, but small factions should not be able to veto decisions.

RRG decisions included in filings.

For there to be honest bargaining and compromise at the RRG meetings, a decision by the RRG must have some weight and affect what gets put into the filings by the utilities. We propose:

The filing utilities commit that in any regulatory filing, if their position is different from the RRG position, they must explain the difference(s) and also file the alternative RRG position.

Thus, RRG consensus would be important enough so that true bargaining would take place.

Reconstitute RRG based on RTO West's Trustee Selection structure.

Present structure of Trustee Selection Committee: 30 votes

- Major Transmitting Utilities - 6
- TDUs - 6 (two weighted by load served, four by smaller utilities.)
- Nonutility Entities - 6 (five generators and marketers, 1 other)
- Retail Customers - 6 (four large users, one of which from Scheduling Coordinators. Two small users, at least one from residential customers)

- State/Provincial/Tribal Energy Authorities/Unaligned - 6 (four state/provincial, one tribal, one unaligned.)

Proposed Changes

1. Non-utility Entities group should reserve one vote for renewables and one for other alternative energy providers (distributed generation, chp, demand response technologies, etc.)
2. State regulators and NWPPC should be separated out into a non-voting group and expanded to include a seat for each state.
3. The last group, without the regulators and the Council should now get only three votes: one tribal, one non-aligned, and one for state energy offices.

Voting

The structure proposed above has 27 votes. We recommend two-thirds (18) votes needed for resolution so that one major group cannot stop a decision.