



Grid West

NEWS RELEASE

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RTO West Becomes Grid West

PORTLAND, Ore. - At its March 31, 2004 meeting, stakeholders participating in the RTO West Regional Representatives Group (RRG) endorsed changing the name of RTO West to Grid West.

The new name – Grid West – was selected to better reflect the region’s new direction and fresh approach for developing regional solutions to address the identified transmission problems and opportunities. These solutions, problems, and opportunities were identified through an intensive, ground-up effort carried out by the RRG since June 2003. The RRG initiated its effort partly at the urging of state utility commissions. Many in the region were also encouraged by the wholesale market white paper issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which acknowledged the importance of regional approaches.

Grid West will build on, refine, and incorporate some of the valuable elements of the RTO West Stage 1 and 2 proposals such as regional planning, fixed cost recovery, and market monitoring. Other important features developed by the RRG include: (1) staged implementation with beginning, interim, and target end states; (2) creation of an independent entity to manage the region’s grid; and (3) regional accountability via mandatory consultation with state representatives and stakeholders across the region.

Speaking as a coordinator of the RRG process, Bud Krogh said: “Staging the development of Grid West is a critical feature. The beginning state must provide a significant improvement over existing practices, and each new phase in the evolution of the independent entity must be workable and not create significant new problems or obstacles to moving forward.”

The RRG’s regional proposal (that would be implemented by Grid West) will be reviewed by state utility commissions, the FERC, and BPA before it can be implemented. “Participation by representatives of the state commissions has been vitally important to achieving the RRG consensus to date. We look forward to on-going development work on Grid West with the RRG stakeholders and the states to further refine the regional proposal to resolve our unique regional transmission problems,” he added.