

# Transmission Planning Objectives of Western States

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# Chronology of State Actions (1)

- **May 2001 – Western Governors’ Transmission Roundtable**
  - No answer to question of what transmission is needed
  - Commissioned 60-day crash effort
- **August 2001 – Governors receive Conceptual Transmission Plans Report for Western Interconnection**
- **August 2001 – Governors request SSG-WI to institutionalize pro-active, interconnection-wide transmission planning**
- **February 2002 – WGA White Paper on transmission financing**



# Chronology (2)

- June 2002 – 12 Governors and 4 federal agencies sign interstate **transmission permitting protocol** (Alberta joins in 2004)
- States played an active role in development of **SSG-WI's October 2003 report**
- September 2003 -- **Utah and Wyoming Governors launch RMATS**
- **States participating in SSG-WI and sub-regional planning**



# States' Transmission Planning Agenda

- Pro-active transmission planning
- Open stakeholder-driven process
- Planning based on commonly used public database
  - Minimize use of “block boxes”
- Closer links between LSE resource plans and regional transmission planning
- Better modeling
  - Better modeling of wind and hydro resources
  - Better integration of demand response/energy efficiency
  - Carbon sensitivity analysis
  - Explore new tools that could measure market power mitigation
  - Tools to better identify beneficiaries of transmission expansion



# Opposition to Federalizing Transmission Planning

- **Governors oppose allowing FERC to pre-empt state siting processes**
  - Biggest challenge is getting permits from federal agencies
  - WGA Transmission Protocol to enhance interstate transmission permitting
- **CREPC comments on DOE's National Interest Electric Transmission Bottlenecks inquiry**
  - DOE can help develop new tools
    - Existing federal modeling tools not as good as what we use in the Western Interconnection
  - DOE should defer to recommendations from open regional transmission planning processes
  - DOE can help integrate new transmission technologies into Western transmission planning efforts

