



# Grid West

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Grid West Gains Critical Mass to Move Forward**

*Transmission owners participating in regional process  
lay out plan for developing an independent  
transmission provider*

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – Owners of nearly three quarters of the region’s transmission grid presented a plan to complete development of Grid West, a non-profit corporation designed to become a regionally focused, independent transmission provider.

Idaho Power Company, NorthWestern Energy, PacifiCorp (Utah Power and Pacific Power), Portland General Electric Company, Sierra Pacific Power Company, Avista Corporation, and British Columbia Transmission Corporation presented their vision and plans to continue development of a reconfigured Grid West proposal that includes their transmission facilities. On November 1, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Puget Sound Energy elected to withdraw from the Grid West development process.

The plan for moving forward, announced in a public meeting Thursday, launches a new phase in the effort to resolve persistent problems with regional transmission services in the Northwest and Intermountain West. The next phase of development efforts will focus on two primary tracks: one to evaluate the technical feasibility of the new Grid West configuration, and a second to revise the governance to be compatible with this configuration. The utilities that wish to continue with Grid West development stressed that the revised governing bylaws will continue to balance independence and accountability to the region.

Regarding future involvement of BPA and other utilities, Chuck Durick of Idaho Power stated that “Grid West will seek a strong working partnership with BPA that can provide value for the region.” He reinforced this by citing examples of elements in the Grid West proposal that allow any utility in the region to participate in Grid West markets on a non-discriminatory basis.

(more)

Ted Williams, of NorthWestern Energy and President of Grid West, was “very, very pleased” with the support expressed by a majority of the 51 attendees, including several state commission representatives. He added, “we’ve seen a lot of optimism to move forward and this provides strong motivation to get the development work done.”

“Grid West continues to have the support of many regional stakeholders,” said Egil (Bud) Krogh, Grid West coordinating team member. “We have retained a broad cross section of stakeholders who want to move forward to improve planning and management of key operational and commercial functions of the regional transmission grid.”

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Idaho Power Company, NorthWestern Energy, PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric Company, Sierra Pacific Power Company, Avista Corporation, and British Columbia Transmission Corporation together own or operate 43,600 circuit miles of transmission and deliver 179 million megawatt-hours annually. This represents 70% of the region’s 62,700 circuit miles of transmission and 80% of the region’s 222 million megawatt-hours of annual energy to load.