



Grid West

NEWS RELEASE

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Grid West Moves Forward

PORTLAND, Ore. –Grid West released a report on its impact assessment indicating that, despite fewer participants, the proposed design remains technically feasible and cost effective. This report will serve as the basis for future funding discussions, expected to conclude in the coming weeks.

The report indicates that Bonneville Power Administration’s decision not to be part of Grid West adds some operational complexity. It also simplifies systems and procedures. “Grid West continues to make sense for both direct participants and those voluntarily taking part in its markets,” says Steve Walton, of the Grid West coordinating team.

Grid West annual operating costs, estimated at \$86.8 million, decreased by approximately four million dollars per year in comparison to the original estimate. Sean Donoghue of The Structure Group explained that the change in participation will enable Grid West to function with fewer employees and lower system costs despite increased infrastructure requirements. This means that potential benefits of Grid West continue to substantially exceed costs.

Grid West’s expected value to the region mainly includes:

- Increased transmission utilization,
- Access to new organized markets,
- Access to diverse generating resources,
- Improved reliability, and
- Centralized planning.

Ted Williams, of NorthWestern Energy and President of Grid West, is “very pleased” with the level of stakeholder support for Grid West. He adds, “There is great optimism for moving forward quickly to elect an independent board of directors, complete development efforts, and begin offering services as soon as possible.”

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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.