



# Grid West

## *NEWS RELEASE*

**January 24, 2006**

### **Grid West Secures Funding for Next Steps of Development**

Portland, Oregon – Grid West announced today that it approved a funding agreement to complete a business plan, which will enable implementation of balancing and ancillary services markets as early as 2007. In addition, the business plan will assist transmission owners with tariff administration and other functions, including transmission planning and seams management. The goal is for implementation of these services as early as 2006. Grid West expects to secure 18 months of funding from the filing utilities in the coming weeks, at which point Grid West will seat its independent board.

The Grid West Board fully endorsed this next step in the development of Grid West. The British Columbia Transmission Corporation (BCTC) of Vancouver, BC, will support a study to analyze BC's opportunities with other Grid West participants. Although BCTC suspended funding for the next phase of Grid West development, BCTC confirmed that it remains strongly committed to regional integration with its Grid West partners.

“Grid West has adapted to BC's decision,” says Chuck Durick, newly appointed President of Grid West, adding, “the Board is now completing a business plan that captures the regional benefits so many see in the Grid West design, faster and with less cost.”

Bud Krogh, head of the Grid West Coordinating Team, further supported the Board's decisions. “Grid West is a good proposal that has strong support for moving forward from so many quarters.”

Cam Lusztig, BCTC representative, agreed. “Despite our decision to suspend funding at this juncture, we remain very supportive of the Grid West effort. We intend to work closely with our Grid West partners and, in fact, we will actively support finding opportunities to directly interconnect with Grid West and participate in its markets.”

Representatives of other participating utilities, PacifiCorp, NorthWestern Energy, Avista Corp., Sierra Pacific and Portland General Electric, agreed the business plan, although not yet complete, has promise and deserves detailed evaluation. “That's what we intend to do over the next weeks, or longer if

necessary,” said Mark Maher of PacifiCorp. “After that, we will proceed to seat the independent board.”

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