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BRIEFING NOTICE

Electric Transmission 102: Policy Challenges to Grid Expansion

Friday, February 27, 2009

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

210 Cannon House Office Building

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)**, **WIRES (Working group for Investment in Reliable and Economic electric Systems)**, and the **American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)** invite you to a briefing on key policy issues associated with the upgrade and expansion of the interstate electric transmission system. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has identified several critical challenges to transmission: planning, cost allocation (who pays?), cost recovery, and siting. There are also substantial questions about how transmission should be regulated, who should own and operate it, which agency should determine that transmission is needed and which resources or load should be entitled to use these essential facilities? Utilities, merchant developers, technology companies, environmental groups, federal, state and local governments, transmission customers, and electricity consumers all have a stake in finding answers.

This briefing will focus on three main issues in consecutive half-hour segments, inviting audience questions in the process: (1) regional planning, (2) cost allocation, and (3) facilities siting. Speakers will include:

- **James Hoecker**, Counsel to WIRES and former Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- **Garry Brown**, Chairman, New York Public Service Commission
- **Rob Gramlich**, Policy Director, American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)
- **Jolly Hayden**, Vice President, NextEra Energy Resources
- **Nina Plaushin**, Director, Federal and Legislative Affairs. ITC Holdings
- **Michael Quinn**, Director, Transmission Development, Oncor

The need to strengthen, upgrade, and expand the electric transmission system has emerged as a major concern of state and federal policymakers. After a period of disinvestment in transmission during which electricity demand grew and wholesale power markets became vibrant and active, the interstate high-voltage system experienced increasing congestion, more instances of outage and failure, and lack of digitalization. Addressing these issues is critical to the country's economic health, its energy independence and security, and the reliability of electric service. Equally important, and perhaps more urgent, is the public policy impetus that leaders wish to give to alternative and location-constrained energy resources such as power from wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal. These resources are far from load in many instances and adequate transmission is key to their development.

This briefing is free and open to the public. No RSVP required.

For more information, please contact Laura Parsons at lparsons@eesi.org or (202) 662-1884.

This briefing is a continuation of the discussion begun on January 15 when EESI and WIRES conducted a briefing called Transmission 101: How the Grid Works. Materials and video from this briefing are available at www.eesi.org/011509_transmission.

