



Energy solutions
for a changing world

Transmission Siting

Looking Forward to A Decarbonized Grid

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September 25, 2012

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Outline

- Current circumstances
 - More proposals about renewable energy integration, fewer about load growth
- Proposals shouldn't come out of nowhere
 - Planning
 - Public engagement
- Proposals should be sensitive
 - Problem with the term “NIMBY” and its relatives
- Proposals should appear to make sense, even if regulation doesn't
 - Problems with regulation (fragmented, politicization, inconsistent at a given time and over time)
- Situations that seem to be working

Transmission Renewed

- For most of Power System history, transmission has been driven by electrification and then load growth
- For transition to support existing public policy objectives for renewable power, and prospective objectives to decarbonize the grid, transmission will be driven by public policy and least cost ways to achieve it

Changes to the Case for Transmission

- Past
 - Electrification
 - Load growth
- Future
 - Interconnect renewable power
 - Flexibility in larger balancing areas

Fact of Life of Electric Transmission

- Shared jurisdiction
- Shared (network) benefits
- Shared costs are less fact and remains aspirational to some
- Regional state committees are new on the scene
 - While immature, they could help siting

Principles for Good Siting Unchanged

- Planning
 - Public policy requirements
 - System needs, economies, regional issues
- Alternatives
- Routes
- Permitting
- Financing and Construction

No Surprises: Good Expectations for the Public

- Proposals should come from a planning process
 - Proposals should not appear to come from nowhere
- Public Engagement
 - What are the directions of the power sector?
 - Should all transmission proposal come from some larger context?
 - Can opinion leaders appreciate this context?

Proposal Quality Matters as Much as Ever

- Have all the proposal that have had problems been good proposals?
 - No
 - Quality Matters

Proposal Quality

- Technical soundness
- Sensitivity to interested people
 - Not rolling over, but not insensitive or overly paternalistic either
 - Use of terms like NIMBY incite resentment through lack of respect – why do it?
- Timeliness, properly scaled
 - Addressing an articulated need, generally recognized

Transmission is an easy battleground for other fights

- While some directly affected interests will be concerned about any project
- Others may only be concerned because they support or object to the underlying motivation for the line
 - Imported power, wind, nuclear, coal, regional or commercial conflicts
- Perspective from planning and public engagement can help to build credibility

Emergent Issue: Build It, They Will Come

- Renewable Energy Zones
 - Transmission project gestation longer than renewable project gestation
 - Yet renewable project needs transmission to get financed
 - Regulators will need to push the envelope of standard practice to approve transmission, based on comfort that the resource is there and will be needed, and RE competitors will fight out later who actually builds

Resources

- National Transmission Grid Study on Siting Issues
 - <http://www.raonline.org/document/download/id/496>
- Electricity Transmission: A Primer
 - <http://www.raonline.org/document/download/id/812>
- Renewable Resources and Transmission in the West
 - <http://www.raonline.org/document/download/id/4859>

About RAP

The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) is a global, non-profit team of experts that focuses on the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the power and natural gas sectors. RAP has deep expertise in regulatory and market policies that:

- Promote economic efficiency
- Protect the environment
- Ensure system reliability
- Allocate system benefits fairly among all consumers

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