



November 2, 2007

Carole Washburn
 Executive Secretary
 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
 Richard H. Hemstad Building
 1300 S Evergreen Park Drive SW
 Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Ms. Washburn,

ColumbiaGrid has been working with Dick Byers to develop a proposed protocol to achieve the collaborative involvement of states in ColumbiaGrid's planning and policy matters, through a coordinated, open, transparent, and participatory process.

Moreover, the proposed protocol ensures that the Commission and other agencies will have access to the Board of Directors whenever any such state agency desires a collaborative consultation.

The proposed protocol is attached for the Commission's review and acceptance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or comments.

ColumbiaGrid and its participating utilities deeply appreciate the involvement and support from the Commission, especially Commission Chair Sidran and Commissioner Jones, and also its staff, notably Dick Byers, and we desire to continue our collaboration going forward.

The Board and I also look forward to meeting with the Commissioners at our scheduled briefing in Olympia on December 18, 2007.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Kaake".

Jon Kaake
 President
 ColumbiaGrid

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STATE REGULATORY AGENCIES COLLABORATIVE INVOLVEMENT

GOAL: To foster the collaborative involvement of States, including agencies responsible for facility siting, utility regulation, and general electricity policy in the ColumbiaGrid planning and policy process.

Affected State Agencies: This protocol addresses collaborative involvement of any state agency that is within ColumbiaGrid's area of influence with responsibility for transmission policy, siting, reliability, planning and operation. Any state agency outside the general area of influence of ColumbiaGrid can request inclusion in the protocol requirements if it feels ColumbiaGrid's activities will influence electricity service in that state.

Procedures:

- A. Identification:** ColumbiaGrid shall maintain an up-to-date service list of all Affected State Agencies who have indicated interest in a collaborative involvement in ColumbiaGrid activities.

- B. Notification:** ColumbiaGrid shall include to all identified Affected State Agencies a notification of its regular and special meetings along with normal subcommittees, advisory committees and study team meetings. At its regular monthly meetings ColumbiaGrid shall provide for an agenda opportunity for any Affected State Agency to address the Board. Included in all its procedural notifications of opportunity to comment on proposed activities and proceedings of ColumbiaGrid shall be an invitation to Affected State Agencies to request a consultation with ColumbiaGrid on any matters of interest prior to close of the comment period.

- C. Collaborative Consultation:** ColumbiaGrid shall provide the opportunity for direct consultation between the Board and any Affected State Agency whenever requested by the Affected State Agency. Such requests can be in response to proposed ColumbiaGrid actions, at the discretion of the Affected State Agency, or at the request of ColumbiaGrid Board. Such collaborative consultations shall take place with Affected State Agencies at least once a year unless deemed unnecessary by the Affected State Agencies. Such consultations shall take place at locations selected by the Affected State Agency within reasonable time and budget constraints, and if requested by the Affected State Agency, shall be an open public meeting.

- D. Consultation Record:** Minutes of the collaborative consultations shall be prepared and approved by ColumbiaGrid and the Affected State Agencies. Minutes should be of adequate detail to document any agreements, disagreements and proposed actions resulting from the consultation.
- E. Consultation Actions:** Any agreed actions resulting from the consultations shall be jointly developed by the Board and any Affected State Agency into an action plan including a reasonable time schedule. Disagreements that cannot be resolved through action plans or other settlement means shall be documented in the minutes and ColumbiaGrid will provide a report on the reasons for the inability to reach settlement of the disagreement to the Affected State Agencies in a reasonable timeframe.
- F. Protocol:** In endorsing these procedures both the Affected State Agencies and ColumbiaGrid are documenting their sincere efforts to meet and hopefully exceed reasonable expectations of all parties to provide a coordinated, open, transparent, and participatory process.