



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Jane Dee Hull
Governor of Arizona
Chairman

Judy Martz
Governor of Montana
Vice Chairman

James M. Souby
Executive Director

Headquarters:

1515 Cleveland Place
Suite 200
Denver, Colorado 80202-5114

303-623-9378
Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 388
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

March 13, 2002

VIA FAX

The Honorable Daniel Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon, 3E880
Washington, DC 20301-0002

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

The President's Executive Order 13212 directs federal agencies to expedite the permitting of new energy facilities. Western governors share the President's objective and have been drafting a protocol among the Western states to better coordinate the reviews of proposed interstate electric transmission facilities. As we have worked together to address obstacles to transmission siting, it becomes clear that federal siting processes are cumbersome and inefficient. Thus, we cannot achieve our mutual objective of more timely and higher quality reviews and permitting of proposed interstate transmission facilities in the West without the cooperation of your departments. Together, your agencies manage almost one-half of the land and oversee natural resources in the states that make up the Western Interconnection.

Typically, the most difficult step in securing the necessary rights-of-way and permits for new transmission involves crossing federal lands. Therefore, Western governors are seeking your collaboration in developing a transmission siting protocol that both you and Western governors can sign or endorse and jointly implement. We are also seeking the endorsement of such a protocol by tribes in the West and Western Canadian provinces, which are integral to the Western power grid.

We are offering the attached draft protocol as a beginning point for discussions with your representatives to fashion an agreement we can all sign or endorse in June at the Western Governors' Association meeting in Phoenix. As part of Western governors' on-going effort to improve environmental decision-making in the region, we plan to review the draft protocol with a broad group of stakeholders at the Western Governors' Association's Environmental Summit on April 24-26 in Salt Lake City. It would be useful to include provisions agreeable to your agencies in the document that will be reviewed in Salt Lake City.

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The electric power challenges that have faced the West over the past two years reinforce the need to reach the goals of Executive Order 13212. We look forward to working with you to improve the quality and timeliness of federal agency reviews of proposed transmission facilities in the West and to coordinate such reviews with state review processes.

Please contact Jim Souby, WGA Executive Director, if you have any questions and to identify your designated representative to work with Western states.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Dee Hull". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane Dee Hull
Governor of Arizona
Chairman

cc: Vice President Richard Cheney
The Honorable Spencer Abraham
The Honorable Pat Wood

Attachment