

April 19, 2007

Mr. Ronald L. Lehr

Dear Mr. Lehr,

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2007, addressing the concerns of the American Wind Energy Association.

The Colorado Coordinated Planning Group CCPG recognizes that you have raised four issues of concern, and the CCPG is generally in agreement. As you know, there are many forces at large within the industry that will change the format of the CCPG meetings, the study procedures within the industry and the regional planning groups that address these same issues.

The first issue is directed at increasing the public involvement in the long-range transmission planning processes. It is the intent of CCPG to seek additional input and direct participation in the long-range planning processes. Future efforts will involve a more continuous dialogue, within the codes of conduct between stakeholders, merchants and the transmission planners.

The second is directed at planning for contributions from efficiency efforts and renewable energy sources. Generally this has been reported many times in CCPG reports, that each utility or entity does factor efficiency into its forecasts used in the transmission studies. The CCPG, as a group, does not have the resources on a volunteer basis to address these forecast issues in transmission planning studies. However, the CCPG recognizes the benefits of these types of analysis and would consider future studies factoring in reasonable estimates with guidance from coordinated stakeholder participation.

Your third point deals with the coordination of planning efforts from various utilities. Efforts are under way through the Southwest Area Transmission group (SWAT), the CCPG, and WestConnect to improve the coordination of planning across the entire WestConnect area. The CCPG is encouraged that this effort will improve communication on the state and local levels.

Lastly you suggest greater consideration of out-of-state resources and regional export opportunities. It is true that the first two statewide planning efforts by the CCPG and the sub-group known as the Colorado Long-Range Transmission Planning Group (CLRPG), focused within the boundaries of Colorado. These studies were focused primarily on the needs of the State of Colorado and the infrastructure required therein. With the broadening of coordinated planning across the WestConnect area, there will be a natural expansion of planning

studies regarding exports of resource to other regions outside of the state of Colorado.

Once again, the CCPG wishes to thank you for your letter and the issues you have raised. The CCPG looks forward to your input and participation in identifying additional resource areas within the state, close coordination with utilities in the State of Colorado and coordination with other regions outside the State of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Chuck Sisk  
Principal/Managing Electrical Engineer  
Chairman, Colorado Coordinated Planning Group