

Craig Cox

From: Craig Cox [cox@interwest.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2007 10:44 PM
To: Thomas W. Green (thomas.green@xcelenergy.com)
Subject: Comments on High Plains Express Transmission Project

Mr. Thomas Green
Principal Transmission Planning Engineer
Xcel Energy
550 15th Street, Suite 700
Denver, CO, 80202

Dear Mr. Green:

The Interwest Energy Alliance believes that robust intrastate and regional interstate transmission facilities will help build the market significantly for clean renewable energy technologies such as wind and utility-scale solar.

As with all new proposed large transmission projects, Interwest believes that some key principles should be followed in order to ensure broad public support and, thus, the ultimate success of these projects. We outlined these principles in a letter to the Colorado Coordinated Planning Group in a letter dated 9 February 2007 signed by the American Wind Energy Association, Colorado Independent Energy Association, Colorado Renewable Energy Society, Environment Colorado, Interwest Energy Alliance, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, West Wind Wires and Western Resource Advocates. This letter is available at http://www.interwest.org/documents/documents/2007-02-09_ccpg_ltr_9feb07.pdf.

The planning principles that we outlined our February 9th letter apply equally to the High Plains Express Transmission Project and to other proposed projects in Colorado and throughout the West:

- | Public participation in long-range transmission planning processes should be expanded
- | Planning must include contributions from efficiency and renewable energy resources
- | Utility plans should be coordinated across the state and across the region
- | All out of state resources and regional export opportunities should be considered

We also believe that the transmission planning process should consider transmission for independent power projects and include participation by independent transmission companies.

Finally, we need to ensure that non-governmental organizations representing a variety of interests are involved in this process, as it is important to have input from land, habitat, and wildlife preservation groups, among others.

In Colorado and throughout the West, we are about to embark on a major transmission build-out of unprecedented proportions, with a number of new, large, proposed lines being studied for construction. This reflects the rapidly growing demand for new power in this fast-growing part of the country, and serves to underscore the importance of broadening public participation and including renewable energy and energy efficiency resources as an integral part of a coordinated, regional superhighway network for electric power facilities.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. I look forward to working with you, your colleagues and other stakeholders as this process moves ahead.

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