

Western Public Utility Commissions' Joint Action Framework on Climate Change

California Public Utilities Commission, Nevada Public Utilities Commission, Oregon Public Utility Commission, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, and Colorado Public Utilities Commission

In 2006, west coast utility regulators signed an agreement to address climate change, a serious threat to the health, safety, and welfare of all people. Over ten years later, the Chairs of the California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado Commissions ("the Commissions") reaffirm this commitment to ensure that investor-owned utilities operate in a manner that protects human health and safety, the environment, and ratepayers from risks related to carbon pollution.

The Commissions provide regulatory oversight of investor-owned energy utilities, and the policies and decisions of the Commissions help determine the extent that utilities contribute to greenhouse gas pollution. While the Commissions operate under distinct state laws and jurisdictional constraints, the flow of energy is inherently interstate, and regional cooperation is necessary and appropriate. The Commissions are committed to addressing climate change and to implementing regional policies encouraging cooperation between the states to reduce carbon pollution. This Framework establishes a mechanism for the Commissions to share information and best practices with the mutual goal of reducing carbon pollution and expanding development of low-carbon technologies in the energy industry.

To address the real-life implications of climate change, the Commissions support cooperation to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, improve reliability, and obtain cost benefits for ratepayers.

Statement of Shared Principles

The following Shared Principles serve as a general guide for a cooperative effort to promote cost-effective, reliable, and clean energy resources and infrastructure:

- Regional cooperation to address climate change.
- Development and use of low-carbon technologies in the energy industry.
- Promotion of cost-effective conservation and demand response.
- A strong, continued commitment to renewable energy resources.
- Support for energy planning processes that recognize the ability of low-carbon resources to provide reliability and cost-effective benefits, while fostering new technology and innovation.
- Advancement of infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions in the transportation industry.

Action Items

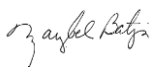
The Commissions will work cooperatively on the following actions to implement the Shared Principles:

- Review best practices and pursue joint opportunities to identify and secure cost-effective conservation.
- Review best practices for demand response and develop joint activities to increase beneficial demand response capability.
- Examine opportunities to further support and implement renewable energy development to service the states, including policies to encourage the development of cost-effective transmission that provides access to prime low-cost resource sites.
- Seek opportunities to share analyses of the benefits, costs, and reliability of variable generating resources.
- Explore the collaborative development and use of low-carbon energy capacity resources to lower customers' costs and improve system reliability.
- Explore the costs and benefits of regional transmission markets to better utilize resources and protect ratepayers.
- Share best practices in grid modernization, including distribution planning and operations, distributed resources, and distribution and transmission interface.
- Work to ensure regional energy markets maximize benefits to ratepayers.

Implementation Actions

The Commissions direct their respective staffs to implement this Framework and develop an annual set of objectives and a work plan to ensure regular communications among the five states. The Commissions shall meet as appropriate to evaluate the progress implementing this Framework and to focus on achieving desired results as stated above.

California Public
Utilities Commission



Marybel Batjer
President
9/18/2019

Oregon Public Utility
Commission



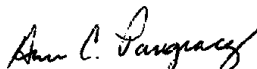
Megan W. Decker
Chair
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Washington Utilities
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David W. Danner
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Nevada Public Utilities
Commission



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Jeffrey Ackermann
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