



U.S. Department of Energy  
**2012 National Electric Transmission  
Congestion Study  
Western Regional Workshops**

**December 13, 2011 – Portland, Oregon**

Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel  
8235 Northeast Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220  
Phone: 503-281-2500

**December 15, 2011 – San Diego, California**

Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina  
1380 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, California 92101  
Phone: 619-291-2900

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Each workshop will begin at 9:00 am and end at 12:30 pm. Each workshop will have two panels, one of regulators and one of industry members. Panelists will be asked to address the following questions with emphasis as each panelist deems appropriate:

- 1) In its 2009 Congestion Study, DOE found that Southern California constitutes a Critical Congestion Area, that the Portland-Seattle region and the San Francisco Bay Area were congestion areas of concern, and that the Phoenix-Tucson area was no longer a congestion area of concern. The study also identified parts of the West with rich renewable resource development potential as conditional congestion areas. Do you think that the 2009 study came to the appropriate conclusions regarding congestion in this region in 2009-10? Based on current conditions, analyses and recent developments in your region, do you think your area has become more or less congested, and why?
- 2) What factors should DOE look at when evaluating congestion and identifying congestion areas in this region? How might each factor affect future congestion in this region?

- 3) Is there current or conditional congestion in your area or region today? What evidence -- quantitative or qualitative -- supports your conclusions regarding current or conditional congestion in your area or region today? (Please provide such evidence, or direct us to appropriate source materials.) To the extent that you believe your region has conditional congestion of national significance, what are the factors or conditions upon which that conclusion rests and how likely are these conditions likely to materialize?
- 4) If current or conditional congestion exists in your area, what are its consequences in terms of reliability, resource options, wholesale competition and market power, cost of electricity to consumers, environmental quality, or other? Are these consequences so significant that this congestion should be mitigated?
- 5) Assuming that it would not be economic or practical to mitigate all congestion, what is the range of options for mitigating severe congestion?
- 6) Are there particular data sources, analyses and organizations that DOE should look at for expertise and source material in preparing the 2012 congestion study? In particular, how should DOE best use the expertise and insight offered by the Western Governors Association (WGA) and the Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC)? What are the most relevant results from recent work, such as that done for the Western Renewable Energy Zones project, the designation of energy corridors on federal lands under section 368 of the Energy Policy Act (2005), the programmatic environmental impact statement for solar development on federal lands, and WECC's recent 2011 10-Year Regional transmission Plan?