

NOTES FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2011 NGS NREL STUDY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) MEETING/  
CONFERENCE CALL

**Introductions/attendance:** Letty Belin, Bryan Newland, Cathy Wilson, Dion Killsback, Harrilene Yazzie, Sandra Silva, Tim Allen, John Vimont, Pat Brewer, John Bunyak, Bob Postle, Dave Murillo, Lorri Gray-Lee, Terry Fulp, David Sire, Bob Wright, Ann Acheson, Bret Anderson, Larry Jensen, Scott Haase, David Hurlbut, Cindy Hoeft, Jack Simes, Sandy Eto

**Past minutes/notes:** Corrections needed/provided as follows: discussion on coal (provided by Bob Postle); Hopi Tribe Vice Chairman Herman Honanie; Mr. Stephen Etsitty, Executive Director, Nation Navajo Environmental Protection Agency.

**Study status update (Dave Hurlbut):**

- **Peer review update:** Chapters 1-4 have been distributed for peer review; comments are due by 11/18 (Chapter 1-Overview, NGS operations/history/role in each owner's energy portfolio/legislative history/etc.; Chapter 2-Regional analysis/how NGS fits into Western power portfolio/impact of an NGS shutdown/system response; Chapter 3-Relationship between NGS and CAP/Development Fund/water rates/etc.; Chapter 4-Visibility science, including analysis of candidate technologies for reducing haze-causing emissions; Chapter 5-Tribal impacts including local/operational and CAP water consuming tribes). Chapter 5 is not out for peer review because it is not yet complete; hope to get this back on schedule. GRIC has hired its own economist, whose report is anticipated to be completed and provided to NREL (and EPA) by 11/15/11. It would be good to incorporate this into Chapter 5. After peer reviewers' comments have been incorporated into the draft, peer reviewers will be asked to review the complete report. On 12/12/11, NREL will conduct a "Red Team" review (by NREL top Management which is typically done for high profile studies).

There was much discussion regarding opportunity for EC review, how comments should be handled, timing, etc. There were questions regarding how differences in interpretation of data would be handled, the study's conclusions, and the Department's position/responsibilities. John V. indicated if the report was going to be issued with the Department's endorsement, he wanted to make sure the Department's position is clear, even if it isn't in agreement with the report's conclusions/recommendations. Letty stressed the importance of maintaining the report's objectivity. Dave clarified the study will include NO recommendations. The following was proposed with no objections being raised: The EC will have opportunity for a quick review to identify any factual errors that need correction prior to NREL finalizing report for publication. The draft final report will be presented to the EC at a meeting tentatively scheduled for 1:00 p.m. EST on 12/14/11 (provisions to be made for a webinar or video conference for those not located in DC). NREL will be putting the report in form for DOI's submission to EPA by 12/31/11. The draft final report will also be made available for review by member agencies of the EC, as well as to the participating stakeholders and general public, with a deadline for receiving comments (and potentially a page or some other type of limit). Comments received prior to the deadline will be reproduced as an appendix to the report and potentially be submitted after 12/31/11; the Department does not anticipate responding to outside comments.

- **Alternative generation:** This portion of the study will be placed on a separate track, which will help keep the rest of the study on schedule; it is about 2 weeks behind the rest of the study. Alternative generation may be beyond EPA's BART authority and therefore is seen as less critical in meeting the 12/31/11 deadline.

**Invitation to speak at Colorado River Water Users Association Meeting (Scott Haase):** Scott has been invited to speak at the CRWUA meeting, to be held in Las Vegas 12/15 and 12/16. He was requested to provide his proposed presentation to the EC beforehand.

**Next meetings/calls:** December 1, 2011, at 10:30 am, EST (8:30 am MST; 7:30 am PST); December 14 webinar or videoconference at 1:00 pm EST (11:00 am MST; 10:00 am PST)