



Briefing Notice

Electric Transmission 201

The High-Voltage Grid: Its Operations, Challenges, and Benefits

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Capitol Visitor Center, Room 209-08 (Senate Side)

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: www.eesi.org/032614transmission#RSVP

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)** and **WIRES** invite you to a series of important briefings on the modernization of the nation's critical network of high-voltage transmission. Designed and built well before the digital age to serve more localized customer loads, the "grid" is struggling to support active and increasingly competitive wholesale power markets that now operate regionally. It is often congested or inadequate to deliver domestic energy resources that are not close to customers. Its aging facilities have acknowledged weather and cyber vulnerabilities. Moreover, the planning and regulation of this fundamental infrastructure is complex, often uncoordinated, and slow to produce results. However, despite the combined effects of the recession and greater energy efficiency, the grid will be called upon to serve 30 percent more electrical demand over the next two decades.

Modern transmission is the fundamental enabler of competition, new technologies, and our high standard of living. Upgrading and expanding the system is a priority. Transmission 201 will provide a basic understanding of how the high-voltage system works and then move to key issues affecting the grid: economic regulation; actual siting and permitting of the facilities; the regional markets that transmission supports; and the range of diverse economic, environmental, and operational benefits that transmission provides to the whole electric system and electricity consumers. Speakers for this forum are:

- **Laura Manz**, Executive Consultant, Smart Wire Grid
- **Judy Chang**, Principal, The Brattle Group
- **Jeff Dennis**, Director of Policy Development at the Office of Energy Policy & Innovation, FERC
- **Raja Sundararajan**, Vice President of Transmission Strategy & Grid Development, Transource Energy
- **Dan Belin**, Director of Electric Transmission, Ecology & Environment Inc.
- **Jack Halpern**, Power Sector Leader for Environmental Services, Stantec
- **Moderator: James Hoecker**, former FERC Chairman; WIRES Counsel, Husch Blackwell LLP

This briefing will be followed in May with a briefing on *Transmission 301: Protecting and Serving the Electric Economy*. The May briefing will address reliability concerns, including cyber and physical security of the grid; the challenges to the grid from a new electric generation mix, especially natural gas and renewable resources; and business and technological innovations that strengthen the system and increase competitiveness.

This briefing is the tenth in a series co-sponsored by EESI and WIRES. Information about previous briefings or about these organizations is available at www.eesi.org and www.wiresgroup.com.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Amaury Laporte at alaporte@eesi.org or (202) 662-1884.

