



An International Non-Profit Trade Association Working to Fulfill the Promise of a Twenty-First Century North American Electric Economy

*"The explosion of controllable grid elements and market players by 2050 will challenge today's grid operating systems, calling for millisecond-level operational controls beyond human interaction ability. The glue will be a **reliable, robust, interconnected, transparent, resilient, and secure transmission grid**, seamlessly connected to transformed distribution networks that smartly interact with customers and their systems."*

Michael Heyeck
Former Member of DOE
Electricity Advisory Committee (2014)

"More 'proactive' or 'anticipatory' planning of the nation's regional and interregional transmission grid would reduce U.S. customers' overall electricity costs significantly."

The Brattle Group (2016)

www.wiresgroup.com

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WIRES focuses exclusively
on **promoting investment in the
electric transmission system.**

WIRES Value Proposition

- **Clear Focus**

WIRES is the only international, non-profit business association focused exclusively on promoting investment in the electric transmission system.

- **A Place at the Table**

WIRES works to make transmission a primary business concern and public policy focus.

- **Meeting Challenges**

Transmission providers today face growing challenges: resistance to siting facilities, scarcity of materials and skilled labor, regulatory uncertainty and jurisdictional questions, physical and transactional stress on the grid, aging infrastructure, increased reliance on remote renewable energy resources, new reliability requirements, and ill-defined regional planning processes and transmission cost allocation approaches.

“**Under-investment** in transmission puts **additional strain on existing resources**, which raises the risk of system disturbances, lengthens restoration time when outages occur, and limits access to remote generation...”

—NERC, 2012 Long-Term Reliability Assessment (2013)

WIRES Officers — 2017

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- **Elevating The Issues**

Grid enhancements must be seen as a “public good” and in the national interest. WIRES can take on difficult issues that individual companies cannot, without jeopardizing relationships with customers or regulators and without undue expense.

- **Broad Appeal**

WIRES is designed to be a big tent. Its membership consists of an array of transmission entities, transmission customers, developers and vendors, and services and technology companies that do business in North America and have a common stake in this vital sector.

- **Information and Contacts**

WIRES has become a way to meet and influence key policy makers and industry players.

“A modernized transmission system **increases reliability, reduces costs** by providing access to a wholesale energy market and effectively integrates wind and other renewable energy to the grid.”

— Nick Brown, President and CEO
of Southwest Power Pool (2016)

What WIRES is...

WIRES Vision

WIRES envisions a robust and effective Twenty-first Century, High-voltage Electric Transmission System in North America that will make critical contributions to economic growth, technological advancement, and consumer benefits.

WIRES Mission

WIRES, a non-profit trade association with an international membership, promotes investment in the North American electric transmission system, robust and effective transmission solutions to economic, environmental, and reliability challenges, and the reduction or elimination of uneconomic barriers to transmission development. This mission is accomplished through the development and dissemination of information, strategic advocacy, and innovation in regulatory, policy making, industry, and educational forums.

WIRES Principles

• Awareness and Education

WIRES commits to advance the understanding by the public and its representatives of the unique importance of the electric grid and the challenges that slow or prevent its upgrade or expansion in the public interest. WIRES will support and advance cooperation and collaboration among government, industry, and financial institutions in pursuit of energy diversity, access to clean energy supplies, electric reliability, and competitive power market through transmission solutions.

• Well-Planned Transmission Infrastructure Investment Yields Multiple Benefits

WIRES commits to support effective and timely regional and inter-regional planning procedures and regulations that strengthen and modernize the transmission grid to promote and enhance consumer benefits from improved reliability, operational flexibility, cost-effective electricity, access to new generation including renewable energy development, economic competitiveness, and system security.

• Effective Transmission Policies Remove Barriers to Investment

WIRES commits to promote state and federal policies that (a) support transmission investment and capital attraction, reduce business, financial, and regulatory risk and promote greater certainty for investors, (b) diminish unreasonable and uneconomic barriers to transmission development, (c) favor competitive bulk power markets, reduce transmission congestion, and improve customer access to all sources of electric generation, including renewable resources, and (d) lead to consistent and efficient regional and inter-regional transmission solutions.

• Careful And Timely Siting of Facilities

WIRES commits to advocate for efficient and collaborative regional, state, and where necessary federal facilities siting processes and procedures that take account of the interests of all stakeholders, are sensitive to environmental concerns, and also ensure beneficial and timely infrastructure investments.

• Equitable Allocation of Costs to All Beneficiaries

WIRES commits to work aggressively toward the equitable, economically justified, practical, and where appropriate broad allocation of the costs of transmission facilities and operations across the shared transmission network.



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“Moving remote and plentiful power to areas where electricity is in high demand is essential for building the grid of the future. Building modern transmission that delivers renewable energy to more homes and businesses will **create jobs, cut carbon emissions, and enhance the reliability** of our grid.”

—U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz (2016)

What WIRES will do...

[illegible]

Transmission Partners, LLC

“Well-Planned Electric Transmission Saves Customer Costs: Improved Transmission Planning Is Key to the Transition to a Carbon-Constrained Future,” with The Brattle Group (June 2016)

“Toward More Effective Transmission Planning: Addressing the Costs and Risks of An Insufficiently Flexible Electricity Grid,” with The Brattle Group (April 2015)

“Market Resource Alternatives: An Examination of New Technologies in the Electric Transmission Planning Process,” with London Economics (October 2014)

Comments to U.S. EPA on Implementation of the Clean Power Plan under the Clean Air Act (2014)

Comments to U.S. Dept. of Energy: Update On Siting Infrastructure on Federal Lands (2016); On the Quadrennial Energy Review (2014); On the triennial Congestion Study, with NEMA (2014)

“The Benefits of Transmission: Identifying and Analyzing the Value of Investment” with The Brattle Group (July 2013)

“Petition for Statement of Policy on Transmission Rates of Return on Equity”(FERC Docket RM13-18-000, June 26, 2013)

“Whether ... [incorporating environmental compliance into the planning process] ... means the Clean Power Plan or something else, our transmission development is designed to take that broad range of futures in and not simply plan toward the Clean Power Plan itself but plan for a future that is changing. We’re seeing very large resource changes on the system, and it is incumbent upon us to plan for that.”

— Jordan Bakke, senior policy studies engineer at MISO (2016)

Interested in learning more about membership or about WIRES' strategic plans?

Contact James J. Hoecker, Counsel to WIRES and former FERC Chairman

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