

MINUTES
Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force (RTCTF)
November 17, 2022
10:00 a.m.

The Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force held a public meeting on November 17, 2022, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the following locations:

Via Videoconference Microsoft Teams, Meeting ID: 248 444 469 657, Passcode: eWiU8L

- 1. Call to order, roll call and establishment of quorum.** Senator Chris Brooks, Chairman, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and opened this agenda item.

<u>Task Force Members in Attendance</u>		<u>Task Force Members Absent</u>
Chairman Chris Brooks	Luke Papez	Asm. Melissa Hardy
Carolyn Turner	John Seeliger	Kris Sanchez
Richard Perkins	Hayley Williamson	Pete Goicoechea
Mona Tierney-Lloyd	Ernest Figueroa	Asm. Daniele Monroe Moreno
Erik Hansen	Rebecca Wagner	Jeremy Newman
David Bobzien	Carolyn Barbash	Alise Porto
Kostan Lathouris	Eric Witkoski	
Elizabeth Becker	Senator Dallas Harris	
Leslie Mujica		

- 2. Public Comments and discussion.** Chairman Brooks opened this agenda item.
There was no public comment

Chairman Brooks: The next agenda item is the review, discussion, and approval of the report on the activities of the Task Force. All the Task Force members were given a draft copy of our report. I'd like to see if there are any additions, edits, or corrections that the Task Force members would recommend. I'd also like to take those recommendations, if any exist, and incorporate those into a motion to approve those additions or edits. Once this is completed, the Governor's Office of Energy can forward this report to the Governor and the Legislature on behalf of the Task Force by our statutory deadline of November 30th.

Review, Discussion, and Approval of Report on the Activities of the Task Force – Sen. Chris Brooks, RTCTF Chair – (For Possible Action)

Chairman Brooks: I would like to direct the Task Force to page six of the report. Page six of the report sets the stage for the next chapter of this Task Force, reviews the first two meetings of the Task Force, and lays a baseline of information, knowledge, and understanding of what we should be looking at moving forward. I'll open it up now to the members of the Task Force.

Mr. Lathouris: I've read the report, and I think it does a good job of summarizing all the presentations we've heard and all the information we've gathered at this point, and I like the format layout. I do have a couple of recommendations for the last bullet point section. I'd like to see the Task Force seek and receive educational input on how RTOs can and have possibly affected tribes, including benefits and potential harms. In addition to that, I'd like for the Task Force to consider Assembly Bill 264's requirements, which include state agencies making reasonable efforts to collaborate with tribes in the development and implementation of policies, agreements, and programs and state agencies that could directly affect tribes. How that will affect the RTO process, and how we can ensure compliance going forward. Those would be my two recommendations. Otherwise, I like it as it's presented.

Chairman Brooks: Thank you, Mr. Lathouris. I think those are worthy and timely additions to this report. I appreciate your input.

Ms. Barbash: I did contact the Governor's Energy Office staff, and I had a minor correction. It was a typo at the top of page four. The first paragraph, down in the middle of the paragraph, starts with generating 690 million in economic activity during the construction period, not 90 million. I wanted to make that edit, and then I wanted to address the last comment about the educational input on the impact of tribes. I think that's very important as well. I do want to explain that Wholesale Energy Markets don't impact retail customers or municipalities. There's a requirement to provide non-discriminatory access and pricing and no advantage on pricing to all customers that usually schedule one megawatt of energy or greater. So, I don't know if that helps in that there cannot be, under FERC regulations, discriminatory access where everybody is treated on the same playing field. I don't know if that changes you wanting to investigate one specific area in detail or not.

Mr. Lathouris: Yes, that type of information will be useful for tribes to know, but I'm not sure if that information is being presented to tribes so that they could know. There is another concern in the development of any kind of transmission lines as well so that tribes can be part of the process early on, and hopefully, we can avoid any potential issues down the road. I think this is worthwhile. I think this is something that tribes would ultimately support. But I want to make sure that everybody has a seat at the table in making sure that this is done the right way.

Chairman Brooks: Thank you, Mr. Lathouris, and I think your suggested additions as we investigate transmission planning across the state of Nevada will help inform land use and how that land use could benefit or negatively impact tribal lands, so I think that's a good thing we should be looking at going forward. Are there any other additions, comments, or edits from members of the Task Force?

Ms. Tierney-Lloyd: Thank you, Mr. Chair and committee members. I also agree that the report is well-written and reflective of our activities over the course of the past year. I have one additional item for consideration in terms of looking ahead. One of those would be from a process perspective to examine if there are any regulatory or other legal requirements in proceeding toward joining a Regional Transmission Organization. I would submit that for discussion by the committee, and then also if there's any thought about scheduling in 2023 for meetings. Thank you.

Chairman Brooks: Thank you, Ms. Tierney-Lloyd. I think that further consideration of any legal or regulatory hurdles and or requirements is something we should be talking about moving forward because that is kind of a changing dynamic in this conversation. I think that is something that we should include as a bullet point, if you will and on page six of tasks that this Task Force will look at moving forward. But as far as scheduling is concerned, I think that we obviously want to avoid the legislative session that will be coming up in 2023. And some elections happened a couple of weeks ago that may or may not change the makeup of the Task Force. And so, we want to see how that plays out, and I think that will really dictate what the scheduling looks like moving forward, but I can't see a scenario where it makes any sense to meet while the legislature is in session. So just for the purposes of planning, I can't see the next meeting happening until after that legislative session. We'll make the Task Force fully aware of what that scheduling is as soon as we possibly can.

Ms. Becker: I wanted to voice my support for Mr. Lathouris' s additions that he suggested that have to do with our tribal communities here in Nevada. I think those are both good suggestions. So, I just wanted to voice my support for those.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a general suggestion for future things that the Task Force is looking at. A lot of the next steps that are written are from the perspective of a bundled customer of the investor-owned utility. But, of course, as we know, there are many communities that are served by consumer-owned utilities that are not bundled customers of the IOU. There are other entities, commercial, industrial load, you know, that's not a ratepayer per se. So just to clarify and make sure that we're looking at the impact on all Nevada communities and consumers and not just the bundle customer. I think that that's a very important piece of our efforts. And if we can also be sure to look at the potential impacts on others.

Chairman Brooks: Thank you, Miss Turner. I think that's a good suggestion to look at, not just bundled customers and investor-owned utility operators but also all transmission users in the state of Nevada, and I think that is something we should include.

Director Bobzien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick expression of support to Ms. Wickham in her preparation of this report and the other GOE staff that assisted with edits and the final presentation today. We appreciate the expressions of thanks that we've received from members thus far, and I look forward to continuing this work in the new year.

Chairman Brooks: I agree wholeheartedly with those comments, Director Bobzien. It's been our pleasure to work with the Governor's Office of Energy and yourself this week and with the rest of your staff on this Task Force.

Mr. Figueroa: I had one comment concerning the fifth item on the last page looking ahead, where the phrase says opportunities and benefits of market regionalization and transmission planning for Nevada ratepayers and communities. I would like to see that phrase changed to say something like opportunities, benefits, and impacts of market regionalization and transmission planning for Nevada ratepayers and communities.

Chairman Brooks: I agree with that, and I think that would make it a little bit more robust and doesn't assume that all opportunities or benefits are predetermined to be good. And so, impacts should be considered in that. I think that that supports Mr. Lathouris' s statement as well. And so, as well as Ms. Turner's statement, what different impacts and how this could affect different types of users in different types of Nevadans.

To summarize this, the additions that I see are the additions that were suggested by Mr. Lathouris, who shared those with the Governor's Office of Energy and shared those in this chat with the committee and clearly stated what they were in this meeting in his comments. Ms. Wickham, do you feel you have all the information necessary to make that an accurate addition to this report based on Mr. Lathouris' s suggestions?

Ms. Wickham: I do. It was very helpful to have him drop it in the chat for me.

Chairman Brooks: We also have Ms. Barash's edit, which is to change the 90 million to 690 million of economic benefit, which is something that we discussed and has been documented in the legislative process and as well as in filings. And we have Ms. Tierney-Lloyd's comments about looking at legal and regulatory requirements that would be required moving forward. Ms. Wickham, do you feel that you have enough clarity and information to capture Ms. Tierney-Lloyd's comments to amend the draft report?

Ms. Wickham: I do.

Chairman Brooks: And in addition to that, we have Ms. Turner's comments about looking at all types of transmission users and transmission customers. And going back to what Mr. Figueroa suggested going back to the potential opportunities, benefits, and impacts that regionalization and transmission planning would have for Nevada ratepayers and communities. And finally, we have Mr. Figueroa's suggested addition of adding impacts to that statement about opportunities and benefits. Ms. Wickham, do you feel that you have all the clarity and information necessary from the Task Force members to encapsulate that in an amended version?

Ms. Wickham: I would appreciate having some more clarity or maybe a specific place where we need to amend Ms. Turner's comment. Is she looking to string the comment along the entire document?

Chairman Brooks: Ms. Turner, for the sake of clarity and transparency for the members of the Task Force and the public, if you could expand upon that right now? It seems to me that makes a lot of sense to be an additional bullet on page six and other things that should be considered as we move forward. And if you agree with that, and if so, could you maybe provide a concise statement on what that could look like for the purposes of the public and of this Task Force, and then follow up with that actual wordage to the Governor's Office of Energy?

Mr. Anthony Walsh: Senator Brooks, I appreciate that statement because I do think our record will need to be clearer as to what we're putting in the report rather than just having emails going around in the background. Thank you.

Ms. Turner: Mr. Chair, I appreciate the opportunity to clarify. The initial reason for speaking up is bullet number five, opportunities, benefits, etc., of which Mr. Figueroa also spoke to. Just clarifying that Nevada ratepayers and the community may encompass everyone, but it could be something as simple as, regardless of which utility provides service. I really appreciate your suggestion Mr. Chair, that it's a separate bullet to clarify that we really are looking at the impacts on all Nevada utility consumers. So, it could be opportunities, benefits, and impacts of market regionalization and transmission planning for consumer-owned utilities, for transmission-dependent entities. I probably could have dedicated a little more time to wordsmithing before I spoke up, but that was the intent. I'll get something in writing here that I will put in the chat for your clarity but would certainly welcome any feedback that other committee members have.

Director Bobzien: Mr. Chairman, I think we're driving in the same direction, and Carolyn, maybe this is what we need is a parenthetical at the end of bullet five just elaborated on who we're considering when we're talking about ratepayers and communities. You know, unbundled customers and bundled customers of investor-owned utilities, something along those lines, you know, including but not limited to, and just provide some of those distinctions to make sure we have the full range. I believe that also could include a specific call out for tribal, but I don't want to take away from the previous suggested additional bullets, particularly the mention of SB 264.

Chairman Brooks: I think that Mr. Lathouris' s suggested bullets can stand alone and augmenting bullet five with some clarifying language could reinforce those. Could it be something as simple as a statement at the end of bullet five that says regardless of the type of transmission user, and I'll probably need the experts on this Task Force to help me understand if that encapsulates the different types of transmission users enough or if there is a statement that we can clearly state that encapsulates all types of transmission users unbundled IOU customers and wholesale customers and other utilities. I don't know what that statement needs to look like. But I'd really like to get that hammered out and finished before we get off this call so that there's no confusion for Ms. Wickham when she's amending the report. But also said that completely transparent for the members of the Task Force and the public.

Ms. Turner: Mr. Chair, I think what my ultimate recommendation is for this Task Force's consideration would be to say bullet five would become opportunities, benefits, and impacts of market regionalization and transmission planning for all Nevada ratepayers and communities. I think that's a good blanket statement, and then a new bullet might read, for example, opportunities, benefits, and potential impacts to transmission customers of the investor-owned utility or of NV Energy. We certainly can look at either version of that, but I think the point of my raising the question is to say what are the impacts of the entire RTO discussion, but then, specifically, I think it's also important to look at what are the impacts to transmission? Certainly, appreciate Ms. Barash's comments about non-discriminatory access. But that's not the only piece of this to consider. So again, I will put that in the chat box now so that folks can read it. I'm putting that in the chat box now, but those are my recommendations. It's a very simple edit to bullet number five and then a new bullet that would talk specifically about the impact on transmission customers.

Chairman Brooks: That sounds good. I think the inclusion of all of bullet five just makes it far more inclusive, and then an additional bullet that says opportunities, benefits, and impacts of market regionalization transmission planning for all transmission customers of all transmission owners. And

I think that transmission owner is the term that best encapsulates all different types of providers because it's not just NV Energy, it's not just the IOU, there are other transmission owners in the State or that we'll be coming into the State that needs to be part of that conversation. If that makes sense to the members of the Task Force, adding an additional bullet that talks about opportunities and benefits impacts regionalization transmission planning for all transmission customers of all transmission owners? I think that takes care of the concern that you have, Ms. Turner, but also is broad enough that it encapsulates any ownership model of transmission. And who their customer might be.

Ms. Turner: Great touch Mr. Chairman, I agree.

Chairman Brooks: Ms. Wickham, does that make sense? Did you capture that?

Ms. Wickham: Yes, but I'm going to read back both bullet points. The first bullet point, number five, opportunities, benefits, and impacts of market regionalization and transmission planning for all Nevada ratepayers and communities. And the new bullet point would read opportunities, benefits, and impacts of market regionalization and transmission planning for all transmission customers of all transmission owners.

Chairman Brooks: It sounds like bullet point five becomes redundant once we add that last bullet point. And so maybe we just incorporate all of that into bullet point five, which would be the last thing that you just read. Does that make sense to the members of the Task Force?

Leslie Mujica: We're getting rid of Nevada rate taxpayers and communities?

Chairman Brooks: No, we're just adding the last statement of including all transmission customers of all transmission owners. I will try to summarize; bullet point five would now say opportunities and benefits and impacts of market regionalization and transmission planning for all Nevada ratepayers and communities, including all transmission customers of all transmission owners. Does that sound okay to the Task Force?

Leslie Mujica: I think that's perfect.

Chairman Brooks: Miss Turner does that capture what you were trying to convey?

Ms. Turner: Yes, Mr. Chair, I appreciate the work that has been done on bullet number five.

Chairman Brooks: These are all great suggestions and edits, and I think they make for a better report. And they provide more guidance to the next version of this Task Force, which, if it were up to me, would look the same as this one look because this is a great group of Nevadans that have provided a lot of input and have a lot of contexts on this issue.

For the purposes of clarity, our additions are going to be the additions that were suggested by Mr. Lathouris, that Ms. Wickham has confirmed, and this Task Force agrees are clear and concise and will be included in the amendment. Miss Barash's edit that Ms. Wickham understands and this Task Force agrees are clear and concise and can be added to this amended report. Ms. Tierney-Lloyd's additional item that we all discussed, and the Task Force and Ms. Wickham agree is clear and

concise, and to be added to this report, as well as the change of bullet five that incorporates Mr. Figueroa and Ms. Turner's concerns and additions. And that, to me, encapsulates what the amended Task Force report would look like. Do the members of this Task Force agree with that or not, and if so, do they have any further comments or questions? I do not see any. With that, I would look for a motion to approve the Task Force report as amended for forwarding to the Governor and the Legislature by our November 30th statutory deadline.

I have a motion from Ms. Barbash. Do I have a second? I have a second from Ms. Mujica. Any discussion on the motion? Seeing no discussion on the motion. With a show of hands both on camera and your virtual hand. All in favor, please, I. Any opposed, nay? The motion passes unanimously with all the Members present, and Director Bobzien with the Governor's Office of Energy can make the amendments as suggested and approved by Task Force and forward that on to the Governor and the Nevada Legislature.

I'd like to thank this Task Force for all their great work. When you're putting together this legislation, and this is a result of my legislation, it's hard to envision how it will be used in reality. When we were putting together the list of Task Force members, at one point, it didn't seem like enough, and then it seemed like far too many, but I think it was exactly the right amount. I'm happy with all the people who stepped up to serve on this Task Force and help Nevada understand this important issue and the input they provided and the quality of representation that we have from Nevada on this and it's made for a much better process, and I hope to see it continue. I am very grateful to both the Governor's Office of Energy and their staff, as well as all the members of this Task Force, for serving their State and giving us their time.

Mr. Figueroa: I just want the record to reflect that I did not take part in the voting as I am a non-voting member of this body.

Ms. Williamson: I support this but also do not technically have a vote.

Chairman Brooks: Thank you. And just to remind some of the members of the Task Force, the regulatory agencies are not voting members of the Task Force while they are participating members of the Task Force and provide a great deal of value from their experience from where they sit on this issue. Do we have any other comments from the committee?

With that, I appreciate everyone's time and service today, and I hope they have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. And we will move on to our last agenda item. Our last agenda item is public comments and discussion. Do we have anyone present on the phone or on the team's meeting that wants to make public comment?

1. **Public comments and discussion.** No public comment was received.

Chairman Brooks: With that, we can adjourn our meeting. And thank you all once again. And I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, if not before.

1. **Adjournment.** *(For Possible Action)*

This notice and agenda have been posted on or before 9:00 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting at the following locations:

- (1) Governor's Office of Energy principal office at 600 E. William St., Ste. 200, Carson City, NV
- (2) Governor's Office of Energy website: <https://energy.nv.gov/>
- (3) Nevada State official website: <https://notice.nv.gov>
- (4) Nevada Legislature Website: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Calendar/A/>
- (5) Nevada Legislature Building, 401 S. Carson Street, Carson City, NV
- (6) Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 E Washington, Las Vegas, Nevada