

**DRAFT PROTOCOL IDEAS
STATE REGULATORY AGENCIES
COLLABORATIVE INVOLVEMENT**

GOAL: To foster the collaborative involvement of States, including agencies responsible for facility siting, utility regulation, and general energy policy in the Columbia Grid planning and policy process.

Affected States: Any state that is within the Columbia Grids area of influence and/or responsibility for transmission policy, reliability, planning and operation. Any State outside the general area of influence of Columbia Grid can request inclusion in the protocol requirements if it feels Columbia Grid's activities somehow influences energy management and/or marketing.

Procedures:

- A. Identification:** Columbia Grid shall maintain an up to date service list of all States who have indicated rights to or interest in a collaborative involvement in Columbia Grid activities.
- B. Notification:** Columbia Grid shall include to all identified States a notification of its regular and special meetings along with normal subcommittees, advisory committees and study teams meetings. At its regular monthly meetings Columbia Grid shall provide for an agenda opportunity for any State to address the Board. Included in all its procedural notifications of opportunity to comment on proposed activities and proceedings of Columbia Grid shall be an invitation to Affected States to request a consultation with Columbia Grid on any matters of interest prior to close of comment period.
- C. Collaborative Consultation:** Columbia Grid shall provide the opportunity for direct consultation between the Board and any Affected State whenever requested by the Affected State. Such requests can be in response to proposed Columbia Grid actions, at the discretion of the Affected State, within reasonable budget and time constraints, or at the request of Columbia Grid Board. Such collaborative consultations shall take place with Affected States at least once a year unless deemed unnecessary by the Affected State. Such consultations shall take place at locations selected by the Affected State within reasonable time and budget constraints.
- D. Consultation Record:** Minutes of the collaborative consultations shall be prepared and approved by Columbia Grid and the Affected State. Minutes should be of adequate detail to document any agreements, disagreements and proposed actions resulting from the consultation.
- E. Consultation Actions:** Actions and/or agreements resulting from the consultations shall be jointly developed into an action plan within a reasonable time schedule agreed upon between the parties.

Disagreements that cannot be resolved through action plans or other settlement means shall be documented in the minutes and Columbia Grid will provide a report on the reasons for the inability to reach settlement of the disagreement to the Affected State in a reasonable timeframe.

- F. Protocol:** In endorsing these procedures both the Affected States and Columbia Grid are documenting their sincere efforts to meet and hopefully exceed reasonable expectations of all parties to provide a coordinated, open, transparent, and participatory process.