

**SYMPOSIUM SESSION TO ADDRESS  
TRANSMISSION AND INTERCONNECTION**

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With change being a dominant part of the wires landscape these days, AWEA's Fall Symposium is coming at an opportune time to shine the spotlight on the topic of transmission and interconnection. In fact, change is a common theme among the various areas that define this complex arena, including technology, federal policy, and transmission planning. Transmission expansion and optimizing use of the current grid, of course, are imperative to the industry achieving its goal of reaching 20% of the nation's electricity needs—the theme of the Symposium.

The session, "How to Get Interconnection & Transmission Delivery Services," which will be held from 2 pm to 5 pm on December 8 at the Symposium, will feature speakers in each of these areas. Ronald J Brzezinski, Commercial Manager—Wind Americas for GE Energy Power Generation, will lend his expertise for the technology piece of the equation, discussing technological trends that are making interconnection easier for wind power developers. On the policy side, AWEA Policy Director Rob Gramlich will update participants on ways to get more transmission service from the existing grid through reforms that AWEA is seeking at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"At this session, we hope to share insight on what will be required in interconnection agreements and what new requirements might be coming down the road," said Gramlich.

Meanwhile, Elliot Mainzer, trading floor manager at the Bonneville Power Administration, will offer insight on the cooperation of many utilities in the Northwest to plan ahead for large amounts of wind power. Mainzer will report on preparations in the region to meet the special challenges of a hydro-rich, wind-rich power system. Wind activity in this region, combined with the unique challenges there, are expected to lead to new uses of wind farm control options to accommodate much more wind.

Rounding out the session will be a presenter from a company that has made some ripples lately in the area of transmission. Janet Besser, vice president of transmission regulation and commercial at National Grid USA, will be discussing the new concept of a wires-only company operating across state lines. In September, National Grid, which operates transmission systems on three continents, released a white paper underscoring that wind is an economical energy choice, but that the resource's environmental and financial benefits will not be available to many consumers in the U.S. unless the transmission system expands (see *Wind Energy Weekly* #1209). So while AWEA's Gramlich will focus on the current grid, Besser will address means of future transmission expansion.

National Grid has frequently and consistently advocated for transmission costs to be spread across regions, recommending a structure based around independent transmission companies, or "transcos," that can work across state lines to bring electricity from remote wind resources to populated areas. The white paper provides further detail on such a structure, explaining the role of transmission companies—how they would work across state boundaries,

provide renewable trunk lines, and deliver cost benefits to ensure construction cost recovery. (To view the white paper, go to [www.nationalgridus.com/non\\_html/c3-3\\_NG\\_wind\\_policy.pdf](http://www.nationalgridus.com/non_html/c3-3_NG_wind_policy.pdf) . )

“This session should be a great update on the full range of transmission issues a wind developer faces,” said AWEA Deputy Policy Director Mike Jacobs, who is organizing the session. “There are real changes happening on these topics, and these speakers are fully involved in making these changes reality.”