

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Recovery Act – State Electricity Regulators Assistance

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WORK PERFORMED UNDER AGREEMENT

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SUBMITTED BY

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

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SUBMITTED TO

U. S. Department of Energy

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Submitted through: <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/SubmitReports.aspx>

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of the project is to increase the capacity of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (“Commission”) to manage an anticipated increase in regulatory activity resulting from energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart grid, plug-in electric vehicles, demand response, coal with carbon capture and storage, transmission and distribution.

The goals of the Commission are to:

1. Create capacity of the Commission to address issues relating to the topics listed above and to specifically address the impact of renewable energy, energy efficiency, demand response and advanced meters on Nevada’s electrical system and its ratepayers.
2. Facilitate timely consideration by the Commission of rulemakings, investigations, integrated resource plans, and other regulatory actions pertaining to the listed electricity-related topical areas.
3. Create two new full time jobs for a period of two years.
4. Train 30 Commission employees in key emerging areas needed for effective regulatory decision-making and streamline regulatory approval in modernizing and ensuring a reliable and affordable electric system.

The expected results are to secure two full-time employees and train existing staff in order to meet the project objective. This will include the ability to hire and train electricity specialists with a variety of skills that will enable it to manage the additional workload expected in the listed electricity-related topical areas.

2. WORK PLAN FOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (Regulatory Operations Staff)

I. Review, analyze and provide technical advice and/or testimony on dockets

The Staff engineer will be assigned to dockets that are related to renewable energy, including but not limited to the following:

- Solar Incentive Program Annual Plan
- Wind Energy Demonstration Program Annual Plan
- Waterpower Demonstration Program Annual Plan
- Solar Thermal Systems Demonstration Program Annual Plan
- Renewable Portfolio Standard annual compliance filing
- Integrated Resource Plans and amendments,
- Rulemakings and investigations
- Permit applications made pursuant to the Utility Environmental Protection Act

II. Provide oversight on the following programs:

- Solar Incentive Program
- Wind Energy Demonstration Program
- Waterpower Demonstration Program
- Solar Thermal Systems Demonstration Program

III. Track and verify Portfolio Energy Credits generated by net-metered customers

IV. Inspect renewable energy generators for compliance and applicability

V. Attend renewable energy stakeholder meetings

3. WORK PLAN FOR POLICY ADVISOR

I. Review, analyze and provide advice to Commissioners and Hearing Officers on renewable energy related dockets

The Policy Advisor will be assigned to dockets that are related to renewable energy, including but not limited to the following:

- Solar Incentive Program Annual Plan
- Wind Energy Demonstration Program Annual Plan
- Waterpower Demonstration Program Annual Plan
- Solar Thermal Systems Demonstration Program Annual Plan
- Renewable Portfolio Standard annual compliance filing
- Integrated Resource Plans and amendments
- Rulemakings and investigations
- Permit applications made pursuant to the Utility Environmental Protection Act.

II. Provide oversight on the following programs:

- Solar Incentive Program
- Wind Energy Demonstration Program
- Waterpower Demonstration Program
- Solar Thermal Systems Demonstration Program

III. Research and Analyze renewable energy and energy efficiency policy issues and legislative proposals

- Keep Commissioners apprised of current policy issues and legislative proposals

IV. Attend renewable energy/energy efficiency stakeholder meetings

4. EMPLOYEE TRAINING

The Commission plans to provide training opportunities for at least 30 employees across a variety of topic areas. The Commission's goal is for 30 employees to each attend three training courses per year.

I. Regulatory Operations Staff :

Members of the Regulatory Operations Staff, including engineers, financial analysts, lawyers and economists will focus training efforts on the following areas:

- Smart grid
- Energy efficiency (decoupling and evaluation, verification and measurement)
- Demand response
- Renewable energy permitting, financing and development
- Transmission

II. General Counsel's Office

Members of General Counsel's Office will focus training efforts on the following areas:

- Smart grid
- Renewable energy
- Transmission.

III. Commissioners, Policy Advisors, and the Public Information Officer

Commissioners, Policy Advisors and the Public Information Officer will focus training efforts on the following areas:

- Smart grid
- Energy efficiency
- Demand response
- Renewable energy
- Transmission

IV. Other Personnel

Depending upon availability of funding, other Commission personnel may attend training in the topic areas.

5. ARRA TRAINING LIBRARY

In addition to the training opportunities provided externally, the Commission has created an ARRA Training Library. Employees who attend training in the topic areas will be asked to provide a written summary of what they learned in their training and to share the materials distributed at the training (as appropriate).