

## NEWS RELEASE

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December 21, 2009

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### **Eastern Interconnection Grid Planning Authorities Get Boost from DOE's Federal Stimulus Funding Announcement**

Seeking to strengthen the country's electrical grid infrastructure, the U.S. Department of Energy has announced that the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative ("EIPC") as well as state groups from the eastern interconnection will share in \$60 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funds to support the transmission planning process. Key to the EIPC proposal is the development of an open and transparent stakeholder process, which is already underway.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu on Dec. 18 announced the EIPC had been selected to receive \$16 Million from the new stimulus funds. The DOE also awarded \$14 Million in funding to the Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council to assist the states in developing a consensus process to identify renewable resources and other policy options for input to the analysis by the EIPC's technical team.

Encompassing the broad geographic region from Eastern Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Rocky mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, the EIPC is a pioneer, grass-roots effort being developed and led by 24 planning authorities from the United States and Canada to conduct transmission analyses at the interconnection level. Integral to the Collaborative approach is the roll-up and analysis of existing regionally developed plans. The newly announced federal funds will be used to support this work.

Following the finalization of an agreement with the DOE, it is anticipated that the EIPC study process will proceed with the establishment of a Stakeholder Steering Committee in early 2010 and development of computer models and assumptions to be used in the studies. The results of these analysis efforts will be available in 2011, with updated results provided in 2013.

"We are very pleased Secretary Chu and the Department of Energy have selected the EIPC for funding of important study work in the Eastern Interconnection," said Stephen G. Whitley, president and CEO of the New York Independent System Operator, Inc. ("NYISO") and chairman of the EIPC Executive Committee. "We look forward to working with Secretary Chu and the Department, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council, and all industry stakeholders on these important initiatives to improve regional electrical grid capacity and reliability."

“The planning authorities that have come together to advance the concept of the EIPC have long worked with state and federal regulators and representatives to address the needs of our industry. We believe the new DOE funding for the EIPC proposals will only strengthen these relationships and bring us closer to understanding the future needs of our electric transmission infrastructure to support energy sustainability and economic recovery,” Whitley added.

The EIPC’s proposal was submitted by eight of the regional planning authorities that are acting as the principal investigators on behalf of the overall interconnection group. The eight planning groups are NYISO; PJM Interconnection, LLC; ISO New England, Inc.; Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc., Southern Company Services, Inc. (as agent for Alabama Power Company, Georgia Power Company, Gulf Power Company, and Mississippi Power Company); Tennessee Valley Authority; Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (by and through its agent, MAPPCOR); and Entergy Services, Inc. on behalf of the Entergy Corporation Utility Operating Companies.

In addition to the eight principal investigators and EIPC regional planning authorities, major participants on the EIPC’s proposed study include Charles River Associates, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Keystone Center.

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The Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative effort is being developed and led by 24 Planning Authorities including: Alcoa Power Generating, Inc.; American Transmission Company LLC; Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; E.ON U.S. LLC, on behalf on its operating companies Louisville Gas & Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company; Entergy Services, Inc. on behalf of the Entergy Corporation Utility Operating Companies; Florida Power & Light Company; Georgia Transmission Corporation (An Electric Membership Corporation); Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”); International Transmission Company; ISO New England, Inc.; JEA; Mid-Continent Area Power Pool, by and through its agent, MAPPCOR; Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.; Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia; New York Independent System Operator, Inc.; PJM Interconnection LLC; PowerSouth Energy Cooperative; Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.; Progress Energy Florida, Inc.; South Carolina Electric & Gas Company; South Carolina Public Service Authority; Southern Company Services Inc., as agent for Alabama Power Company, Georgia Power Company, Gulf Power Company, and Mississippi Power Company; Southwest Power Pool, Inc.; and Tennessee Valley Authority.

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