Joint Initiative
Facilitators' Proposed Approach[1]

Joint Initiative Assumptions:

- Northern Tier Transmission Group (NTTG), WestConnect (WC) and ColumbiaGrid (CG) jointly sponsor "think tank" forum
  - Purpose is to encourage and facilitate like-minded parties to develop and implement high-value cost-effective regional products
  - Emphasis in on progress rather than process
  - Participation is voluntary
  - Beginning focus is narrow, could be expanded after initial successes
  - Participants bear their own costs (sweat equity)
- Like-minded parties move to implementation when a critical mass is achieved; agreement of all parties not required to move forward

Responsibilities:

- WC, CG, and NTTG
  - Rotate responsibility for hosting bimonthly "Think Tank" meetings between CG, NTTG, and WC locations
  - Rotate responsibility for hosting Strike Team meetings (timing and logistics to be determined by Strike Teams)
  - Provide project management support
- Strike Team Participants
  - Assign staff who will be responsible to participate in all meetings, take assignments, and meet agreed-upon deadlines

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[1] This proposed approach was prepared by Charlie Reinhold, Sharon Helms, and Kristi Wallis, and has not been reviewed or approved by the principals/members of CG, NTTG, or WC

- Project Management
  - Ensure integration between projects (cross pollination)
  - Ensure milestones are established and timelines met
  - Ensure risks or concerns are identified and resolved

Approach:

- Overview
  - Broader think tank discussions provide opportunity for information sharing
  - Small groups of like-minded entities ("Strike Teams") develop specific solutions and products
    - Strike Teams scope their work, determine how team business will be conducted, and develop agreed-upon work plans (including milestones and deadlines)
    - Strike Teams are not subject to the direction of the think tank, nor will think tank act as a steering or policy group for the Strike Teams
  - Issues grouped into two categories/work streams
    - Infrastructure
    - Products and Services
  - Participation in Strike Teams limited to like-minded representatives who commit to actively participate (attend all meetings, accept and timely complete assignments between meetings, etc.)
  - Based upon Strike Team product, involved parties determine when a critical mass of parties exists to move forward with a specific product or solution
  - "Critical mass" parties enter into implementation agreements
- Strike Team Responsibilities
  - Identify initial set of limited solutions/products to pursue, for example
    - Infrastructure - Dynamic communications infrastructure
    - Products and Services - Intra-hour products, *e.g.,* load following products, reliability redispatch
  - Develop products to level that provides sufficient information for interested parties to determine whether to pursue implementation agreement (product design, technical feasibility, legal implications, implementation requirements, cost estimates)

- Strike Teams will determine how team business will be conducted and develop agreed-upon work plans, including milestones and deadlines

- Critical Mass Parties Responsibilities
  - Determine content of and enter into Implementation Agreements (detailed design, cost responsibility, implementation details, other as determined appropriate by final Implementation Agreement parties)

Next Steps:

- Review proposed approach with WC, CG, and NTTG constituents
- Modify as appropriate and finalize
- Think Tank/Strike Team Meeting on August 26th in Reno
  - Agenda
    - Morning
      - Reliability Primer (technical and legal issues)
      - Present Joint Initiative Approach
    - Afternoon
      - Initial meetings of Strike Teams