



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Northern Tier Transmission Group to add PGE as full member** ***Seven new members join Planning Committee***

Northern Tier Transmission Group has announced seven new members will join its Planning Committee, including Portland General Electric, whose application as a full member will be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for approval.

PGE also will have a seat on Northern Tier's Steering Committee.

Northern Tier, comprised of transmission-owning utilities along with state governments, customers and other stakeholders, works to improve coordination of planning and operations with other subregional and regional groups to chart the future for the transmission grid in the Northwest and Mountain states.

Through coordinated planning efforts by Northern Tier, a number of regional transmission expansion projects designed to meet stakeholders' needs are in the permitting phase. The project sponsors are also collaboratively conducting technical studies demonstrating the improvements to the grid and enhancing the value of participation in Northern Tier.

Joe McArthur, PGE vice president of transmission and customer service, said, "We believe a collaborative approach is the best way to plan for the transmission needs of the region and we are pleased to join NTTG in this effort."

The other new members of the planning committee are Horizon Wind, TransCanada, Idaho Governor's Office of Energy Resources, Black Hills Power, Wyoming Public Service Commission and Montana Public Service Commission.

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John Cupparo, vice president of transmission for PacifiCorp, said, “We’ve added strength to our ability to plan for transmission expansion with the addition of seven planning committee members, who will add to the diversity of Northern Tier’s broad-based membership.”

Paul Kjellander, director of the Idaho Governor’s office of Energy Resources, describing Northern Tier’s role as vitally critical to regional planning, said, “That role is exactly what is needed so the region can meet the transmission needs of electricity consumers.”

Reflecting Northern Tier’s commitment to broad stakeholder involvement, approval of the organization’s next study cycle plan will be considered July 24-25 in Bozeman, Mont.

PGE joins PacifiCorp, Idaho Power, NorthWestern Energy, the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems and Deseret Power Electric Cooperative as utility members.

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