

**Subject: WTEC**

Hi Sarah,

As you see by my email address and in my signature below I am a PUD commissioner in Clallam County. I read the Concept Paper produced by the WPP for the proposed Western Transmission Expansion Coalition (WTEC)- an exciting and desperately needed step forward to improve the grid across the region and the west. Thank you to all at WPP for pushing this idea forward.

I was directed to the paper from a recent issue of Clearing Up, following the link provided. I also clicked the link to the questions page, which of course is how I found your name and contact info. I didn't want to answer all the questions in the list provided but several of the questions touched on the few comments I noted in the margin of the paper while reading it. I am more an industry outsider at this point in my elected tenure so it is understandable if my comments/observations are taken at face value.

Here are my thoughts:

1. Under 2. Structure, part 2.1 Steering Committee: I suggest language be included that require the steering committee to make all major decisions regarding structure, etc. **based** on the information, data, and recommendations from the other committees and stakeholder groups input. This may be implied but it should be implicit.
2. In 2. Structure, part 2.5 Engagement with Tribes, there is a fundamental error in the title and the narrative. I have learned over many decades of engagement with the various tribes of our County and area that making reference to the "Tribes" collectively is inappropriate. Each of the tribes is an independent entity and only a collection of independent tribes get to decide if they shall be represented as "The Tribes". This is enormously important in working with tribal nations because assuming all the tribes operate as one is insulting and offensive to the individual tribes. It may seem like a small thing, semantics, but trust me this is very important especially if you want support from and cooperation with the tribes who will benefit or are impacted by new transmission planning and services. Last, engaging tribal entities should always be one of the first efforts, not an afterthought once plans are already made. The various tribes I've worked with do not want to be told "...how we can help them, we think you should to be involved." Rather they need to be treated respectfully, asked early, in a prime role, "... are you interested in this effort we want to plan, would you be willing to be part of the planning?" My experience so far as a PUD commissioner is that most PUDs and energy entities only give the tribal entities second thoughts. They deserve and expect to be among the first thoughts when they or their treaty rights may be impacted. Also, recognize tribal governments make very good partners and most tribes have access to a lot of money and influence in DC.
3. Last Under 3. Communications I suggest that the external communications begin up front and are active and aggressive, including open public engagement. Early engagement of the general population will be invaluable smoothing the process of and building general support for new transmission infrastructure construction, particularly where new Rights of Way access is required. Not-in-my-back-yard mentality is pervasive, often expressed by local authorities, as an attack on local control. Be upfront with the public and local public authorities by engaging, informing, and educating people early on the challenges and opportunities to make all our lives better and electric resources more reliable and resilient by expanding the grid and what that

might look like via honest discussion about the impacts. Always share all the pros and all the cons and most people will accept the changes if they've been given opportunities to comment and provide input before decisions are made.

The importance of the WTEC initiative must extend beyond industry recognition into the general population if you want to bring diverse regions together to achieve these important goals-make it something people talk about, asking why it's not being done already.

Pretty minor stuff but I believe critical to success of an expanded and integrated transmission grid so expansion plans don't get "grid-locked" by tribal, general public, and local authority resistance. Unlike in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when electric generation and grid infrastructure was built with very little, if any, public input or consideration of the social and environmental impacts in today's world small voices when stirred up can be very loud and effective resisting almost anything.

Thank you for listening to my outsider perspectives.

Take care and have a nice weekend.

*Ken Hays*

**PUD #1 of Clallam County**  
Commissioner, District 1