

**From:** "Bob Burt" <bburt@macnexus.org>  
**To:** <docket@energy.state.ca.us>  
**Date:** 8/23/2004 2:10PM  
**Subject:** 03-IEP-01 Transmission

The following is a brief summary of my comments at the hearing, with a follow up remark added.

- 1) We agree that demand reduction actions should be considered early in the transmission planning process. However, our experience is that it is very difficult to predict the actual demand impact of proposed new programs. Our evaluation has improved to the point that we have a good handle on current programs that have operated a year or more. We suggest that planning push for new programs, but only assume the savings implicit in continuation of existing ones.
- 2) The East Coast Blackout should be regarded as a wake up call. Subsequent inquiry shows that a primary cause was a stupid action in an Ohio utility. Considering the large number of utilities in our West Coast grid and the common presence of human stupidity, we should plan for mitigation and reasonably quick recovery from a wide blackout.
- 3) The terror threat is real. One person can easily carry the amount of explosives necessary to drop a transmission tower. We cannot guard them all, but we should have 'erector set' components on hand to rapidly replace a down tower.
- 4) We agree with the TURN comments on use of the Social Discount rate, especially where the costs involved enter an investor owned utility rate base. We cannot be too sanguine about good usage records of new generation when we have frequent periods when utility dispatchers are phoning all over the West for another MW.
- 5) My experience as a lobbyist provides some cautions to you if you need new legislation:
  - a) write it yourself;
  - b) ask only for powers you can defend, preferably with real world examples ... if you are forced to accept a hostile amendment that eliminates a power you find difficult to defend, that weakens your case against killer amendments;
  - c) a bill of this sort is a big deal ... have senior people attend the legislative committee hearings to provide both prestige and responses to attacks ... legislators are used to your lobbyists.

#### ADDED COMMENT

We live in a world where terror is a real possibility. For transmission, the terror threat, in addition to pinpricks, like damaging towers or lines ... we face a major threat, EMF, the fierce electromagnetic pulse that emits from a nuclear device exploded high in the air. That pulse will knock out all electromagnetic devices in line of sight. That would include the electronic controls for the transmission grid.

A bomb in a rocket launched from an offshore barge, subsequently sunk, has no father and so can be launched with low fear of reprisal. The Chinese think highly enough of this threat that the published article on it, in THEIR military press, was in ENGLISH.

I understand that protection against EMF is not very high tech or expensive. Wrap the electronic device in lead foil of sufficient gauge that there are no pinhole leaks and provide safety fuses on any connecting conductors. A standby replacement keyboard should be also wrapped in leadfoil. This small expense is warranted to ensure that all of us avoid a possible forced lengthy return to the 1880 world before electricity.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Burt, Exec. Dir.,  
Insulation Contractors Association