GRIDWISE Architecture Council

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Dockets Office
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket No. Docket 04-IEP-01K, Strategic Transmission Investment Plan

Please find the enclosed original comments of the GridWise Architecture Council filed electronically on Wednesday, October 19.

Eric Wong

Eric Wong
On Behalf of the GridWise Architecture Council
(Cummins Power Generation)
980 Ninth Street, Suite 2200
Sacramento, CA 95814

GRIDWISE Architecture Council

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

State Energy Resources
Conservation and Development Commission

In the Matter of:	)	Docket 04-IEP-01K
	)	
The Preparation of the *2005 Strategic Transmission*	)	
Investment Plan	)	
	)	

Comments of the GRIDWISE™ Architecture Council

Pursuant to the "Notice of Committee Hearings and Availability of the 2005 Committee Draft Energy Report" issued by the California Energy Commission on September 15, 2005, the GridWise Architecture Council (GWAC) submits the following comments.

1. Introduction

The GridWise Architecture Council (GWAC), launched in May 2004, is sponsored by the US Department of Energy. GWAC's mission is to establish broad industry consensus in support of the technical principles that enable the vast scale of interoperability necessary to transform electric power operations into a system that integrates markets and technology to enhance our socio-economic well-being and security.[1] The thirteen governing members come from across the industry: information technology, telecommunications, power, energy services, utility, industrial system controls, and market trading and economics.

2. The CEC must lay the foundation for the "Grid of the Future"

The Strategic Plan identifies and recommends actions needed to stimulate transmission investments to ensure reliability, relieve congestion, and meet future growth in load and generation, including renewable resources, energy efficiency, and other demand reduction measures (Executive Summary, p. 1). Meeting future load growth with these

[1] http://www.gridwiseac.org

distribution level resources recognizes that the T&D systems are operationally linked. Investment opportunities for the entire grid need to be encouraged.

GWAC submits that "broader state interests" include setting the foundation for the transmission and distribution infrastructure that will enable technology and market participants to develop a vibrant, robust and reliable grid. By setting a foundation that enhances the ability for automated components in the electric system to communicate California and the nation can realize a stronger, flexible grid that integrates energy efficiency, demand response, DG/CHP, renewable resources, and central station power plants.

3. Recommended Action

GWAC makes the following comments.

(1) Interoperable communication and control technologies that enable flexibility in system design should be emphasized. A balanced approach would include new transmission and non-wires solutions as key elements in the state's transmission policy.

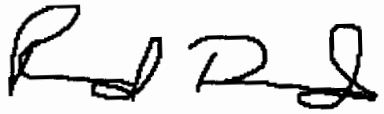
(2) A comprehensive statewide transmission planning process is recommended (Executive Summary, p. 2). Within that section GWAC recommends the following amendment.

> "Incorporation of quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the long-term strategic benefits of transmission, <u>including the integration of demand-side resources (generation, storage, and adjustable load) in system operations."</u>

(3) The CEC makes an *Emerging Technology Recommendations* (Executive Summary, p.5). GWAC recommends the following amendment.

> "The state should continue to support the research and development of new transmission, <u>distribution, and demand-side resource, system integration and information exchange</u> technologies through the Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program."

The GridWise Architecture Council looks forward to further collaboration with the CEC. Please include us in the stakeholder group that will be used to implement the adopted Strategic Transmission Investment Plan.



Rik Drummond
Chair
October 19, 2005