

## **RETI Environmental Work Group (EWG)**

Draft: April 4, 2008

### **Work Group Tasks**

1. Develop and recommend to the SSC criteria for identifying:
  - Lands to be excluded from consideration as generation or transmission project locations or CREZ;
  - Lands to be avoided as development sites;
  - Lands preferred as generation-transmission development locations.
2. Apply criteria to identify specific lands to be excluded from RETI analysis.
3. Develop and recommend to the SSC criteria for ranking the relative environmental impacts of potentially developable CREZ.

### **Proposed Meeting Topics and Schedule**

The Work Group will address the following topics, on a rough schedule of one topic per meeting. The first three topics seek to refine NREL exclusion criteria, and develop a list (and perhaps maps) of lands excluded from project, CREZ, and transmission consideration.

Exclusion and avoidance areas:

1. Identify lands excluded from energy and transmission development by federal law or policy.
2. Criteria for adding additional areas to the exclusion list (e.g. controversial lands, like State Parks).
3. Applying the criteria from item 2 above, what additional areas RETI will exclude?
4. What are areas while not excluded, that should be avoided and what mechanisms should be considered to facilitate avoidance?
5. What project siting and development best practices (e.g., for water utilization) should be included in exclusion or avoidance criteria?

Preferred development areas:

6. What criteria can we use to identify lands that should be preferred for energy development?

CREZ ranking:

7. What other criteria (besides exclusion, avoidance, or “go-to” areas) should be used for ranking of CREZs? (e.g. the length of new roads required)
8. How should these criteria be weighted relative to each other? I.e., how important is each criterion in an overall environmental score?
9. Should RETI quantify the environmental impacts of CREZ, and if so, how?
10. How should environmental impacts be integrated into the ranking of CREZ?

### **Target Timeline**

Topics 1-3: recommendation to SSC by May 1

Topics 4-6: recommendation to SSC by June 1

Topics 7-10: recommendation to SSC by July 3