

**Michael O. Leavitt**  
Governor  
210 State Capitol  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114



State of Utah



State of Wyoming

**Dave Freudenthal**  
Governor  
Rm. 124 State Capitol  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 26, 2003**

Lara Azar, Wyoming  
(307) 777-7437 (Office)  
(307) 421-0197 (Cell)

Jeff Burks, Utah Energy Office  
(801) 538-5414 (Office)  
(801) 201-8557 (Cell)

**WYOMING, UTAH GOVERNORS KICK OFF  
TRANSMISSION PLANNING PROCESS**

SALT LAKE CITY – At a well-attended meeting in Utah today, Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt and Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal announced the kickoff of a subregional transmission planning process for the Rocky Mountain subregion.

Included among the meeting's 150 attendees were representatives of regulatory agencies, industry interests, environmental organizations and consumer groups, as well as Federal Energy Regulatory Commission member Nora Brownell.

"The present system of transmission planning is in need of an overhaul," Leavitt said. "It is time we work together to improve the way we deliver reliable energy to citizens and business in the West."

Both governors expressed their hope and expectation that the subregional planning project would use an open process to identify the most critical transmission and generation needed in the region to meet growing demand for electricity. They defined the Rocky Mountain subregion as the states of Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana and Idaho.

"It is difficult to overstate the importance of developing transmission in the West, and this is exactly the sort of event that is going to make that possible," Freudenthal said. "One goal has already been met, in that a diverse group of stakeholders interested in solutions has been brought to the table. I hope that they will continue to encourage others who could not be here today, but might be inclined to play an active role in the future."

At a Western Governors' Association conference in Big Sky, Mont. earlier this month, Freudenthal asked U.S. Department of Energy Undersecretary Robert Card to ensure the full cooperation of the DOE, including the Western Area Power Administration, in this

effort. This subregional transmission planning initiative will supplement planning underway in the Southwest and beginning in the Northwest.

Following their comments, Governors Leavitt and Freudenthal opened the floor to FERC Commissioner Nora Brownell, who provided the federal perspective on transmission planning in the West. Speakers Jacob Williams of Peabody Energy and Ron Lehr of the American Wind Energy Association explained the role the development of new electric transmission will play in the futures of fossil fuel and renewable energy development in the West. FERC's Kevin Kelly explained the commission's latest initiatives relating to transmission expansion.

This first meeting gave stakeholders an opportunity to participate in the initiative's planning process and helped ensure that all potential transmission and generation options will be considered by the subregional planning study. Stakeholders also volunteered to participate in working groups being created to consider the options, provide the necessary analysis and help draw conclusions on needed future development of transmission in the Rocky Mountain subregion.