

“Who Owns the Grid?”

A Summary Response to the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee
from the Montana Public Service Commission

March 11, 2016

- Definition of “the grid” (ownership):
 - o Generation facilities (utilities, independents, public)
 - o Transmission lines (utilities, independents, public)
 - o Distribution network (utilities, cooperatives, municipals)
 - o Meter/customer
- Common definition: transmission and distribution
- Distribution
 - o Utility/corporation (public regulation)
 - o Co-ops
 - o Municipals
- Transmission
 - o 115kV+
 - o Interconnections
 - o Regional Transmission Organizations
 - o Maps of MT, the West, Regional Transmission Orgs. (see attachments)
- Governance/Regulation
 - o Public Utility Commissions (“PUCs”)
 - o Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”)
 - North American Electric Reliability Corporation
 - o Bonneville Power Administration (“BPA”)
 - o Interregional, regional, state organizations
 - Midcontinent Independent Transmission Organization (“MISO”)
 - Northern Tier Transmission Group (“NTTG”)
 - Western Electric Coordination Council (“WECC”)
 - Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Board (“WIRAB”)

Attach. 1: Transmission lines of Western Interconnect. Intended to: 1) illustrate location of high-voltage interstate lines, and 2) show minimal grid connection between Western and Eastern Interconnects.

Attach. 2: Major transmission lines of Montana, with Colstrip line color-highlighted to supplement discussion of varied ownership of Colstrip line.

Attach. 3: RTOs of North America. Note lack of RTO in most of the American West.