



Rocky Mountain Clean Energy Transmission Summit

History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80203

Wednesday, January 9, 2012

Those interested in attending should RSVP here: [RSVP](#)

There is no cost to register. A continental breakfast and luncheon are provided.

[Event Website](#)

**Please note that all times listed are based on Mountain Time (MST)*

- 8:15 am** **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45 am** **Welcoming Remarks**
Former Senator Timothy E. Wirth, President, United Nations Foundation
Former Governor Bill Ritter, Director, Center for the New Energy Economy
Former FERC Chairman Jim Hoecker, Counsel, The WIRES Group
- 9:00 am** **Morning Keynote Address – Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Phil Moeller**
Introduction by former FERC Chairman Jim Hoecker
- 9:45 am** **The Technical Context for Progress toward Clean Energy in the West**
Brian Parsons, Transmission and Grid Integration Group Manager, National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL's *Renewable Energy Futures Study* spells out the critical role of transmission in achieving long term national renewable energy and environmental goals.
- 10:15 am** **Creating Solutions for the Western Grid: Breaking Through Barriers to Expansion and Modernization for Clean Energy**
Economic and institutional barriers hinder urgently needed high voltage transmission lines, including anti-competitive and inefficient market rules, outdated policies governing federal power administrations, inconsistent state policies on transmission rates and interconnection. What should be done?
Moderator: Mark Jaffe, Energy Writer, The Denver Post

- Stephen Beuning, Director of Market Operations, Xcel Energy
- Doug Larson, Executive Director, Western Governors Association/Western Interstate Energy Board
- Bill Midcap, Director of Renewable Energy, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

11:15 am High Voltage Transmission: A Prerequisite to a Major Role for Renewable Energy
 Renewable resources are abundant, cost effective with today's technology, and capable of meeting nearly all of our electric needs. The main obstacle preventing widespread implementation is the lack of transmission infrastructure. This panel will provide an overview of the transmission barrier, how we can get over it, and the environmental benefits that we would realize if successful.

Moderator: Jonathan Thompson, Senior Editor, High Country News

- Gary Graham, Lands Program Director, Western Resource Advocates
- Pam Eaton, Senior Advisor of Strategic Program Development, Wilderness Society
- Bill Levis, Director, Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel

12:15 pm Luncheon and Keynote Address –
 Remarks by former Senator Timothy E. Wirth
 Introduction by former Governor Bill Ritter

Keynote Address - Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D, 1st District, Colorado)

1:45 pm Clean Energy Development -- a Bipartisan Goal for Western States
 Renewable energy generated in the West could power most of the nation, if favorable Federal and State transmission policies avoid political gridlock. Will bipartisan support in the West be strong enough to launch us into a clean energy future?

Moderator: Former Governor Bill Ritter

- Loyd Drain, Executive Director, Wyoming Infrastructure Authority
- Jim Tarpey, Commissioner, Colorado Public Utilities Commission

2:45 pm Clean Energy in a Growing Western Economy
 Development of Western clean energy resources can power not only much of the nation, but the economies of the Western states, with manufacturers of renewable generating equipment and their suppliers locating facilities by the generating sites, creating good jobs, and landowners profiting from the development and ongoing rights.

Moderator: Tom Kenworthy, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

- Susan Innis, Senior Manager, Public Affairs, Vestas
- Cameron Brooks, Smart Grid pioneer, President, Tolerable Planet
- Tom Darin, Western Regional Representative, American Wind Energy Association

3:45 pm

Economic Infrastructure: Delivering and Preserving Rural Energy Resources

Developing transmission for renewable energy delivers multiple benefits to rural communities, including multiple revenue streams from farmland, local property tax payments, reduced water use for power generation, and lower land use than required for traditional fuel extraction.

Moderator: Dustin Bleizeffer, Editor-in-Chief, WyoFile

- Kent Singer, Executive Director, Colorado Rural Electricity Association
- Tom Hunt, Policy Programs Manager, Colorado Energy Office
- Ron Lehr, former Chairman, Colorado Public Utilities Commission

4:45 pm

Closing Observations

- Ron Binz, former Chairman, Colorado Public Utilities Commission

And a big thank you to our event sponsors!

