

**TO: CEAB ASWG and Board Members**

**RE: Request for Written Comments on the NEEWS RFP Process**

The CEAB received comments from six respondents to the CEAB's Request for Comments (RFC) regarding the New England East-West Solution (NEEWS) project.<sup>1</sup> The RFC sought input on the CEAB's option to conduct either a Proactive or a Reactive RFP process for the Connecticut portion of the NEEWS project. The entities submitting comments, due Friday August 3, 2007, were:

1. Northeast Utilities (NU)
2. Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC)
3. United Illuminating (UI) (includes support of CMEEC comments)
4. Pinpoint Power, LLC
5. Robert Fromer
6. Woodlands Coalition

The following summarizes the key themes from comments submitted by NU, CMEEC, UI and Pinpoint Power:

- Most comments noted the important connection between any RFP and Connecticut's new Integrated Resource Planning<sup>2</sup> (IRP) requirement; NU, UI and CMEEC urged the CEAB to defer an RFP until the IRP process is completed;
- The comments generally point to the importance of an updated and comprehensive IRP as the basis for any RFP that the CEAB may conduct;
- Several comments point to the value of considering alternatives to the NEEWS proposal and oppose consideration of an exemption from the CEAB RFP process at this time; and,

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<sup>1</sup> The Connecticut portion of the NEEWS project would involve two transmission lines from the Springfield, Massachusetts area and from northwestern Rhode Island into central Connecticut. Northeast Utilities is the transmission utility sponsoring these projects.

<sup>2</sup> Under Public Act 07-242, the utilities, the CEAB and the DPUC have a role in preparing an Integrated Resource Plan for Connecticut.

- Several comments point to a number of changed circumstances (such as the DPUC's progress toward contracting with about 800 MW of capacity and changes to the wholesale market) which suggest that the IRP process would provide a necessary update to the NEEWS Needs Assessment conducted by ISO-NE, NU, and National Grid.

Mr. Fromer commented on lifecycle energy consumption analysis, among other things, and the Woodlands Coalition encouraged distributed generation and load management as an alternative to NEEWS.

The comments are brief and are posted on the CEAB website for review.