



# INTERSTATE COMPACTS



The Council of State Governments  
Sharing capitol ideas.

# What is an Interstate Compact?

- Simple, versatile and proven tool
- Effective means of cooperatively addressing common problems
- Contract between states
- Creates economies of scale
- Responds to national priorities with one voice
- Retains collective state sovereignty over issues belonging to the states



# 3 Primary Purposes

1. Used to resolve boundary disputes.
2. Used to institutionalize and manage interstate issues pertaining to allocation of natural resources.
3. Used to create administrative agencies which have jurisdiction over a wide variety of state concerns:
  - ✓ State transportation
  - ✓ Taxation
  - ✓ Environmental matters
  - ✓ Regulation
  - ✓ Education
  - ✓ Corrections
  - ✓ Public safety



# Transmission Line Compact -- Background

- Increasing energy demand.
- Greater emphasis on renewables.
- Inefficiencies in the current system
- 2005 Environmental Protection Act
- Member Driven Initiative



# Transmission Line Compact – Development Process

## *Advisory Board*

- Composed of state officials, stakeholders, issue experts
- Examine the issues and current policy spectrum of issue
- Examine best practices and alternative structures
- Establish recommendations as to the content of an interstate compact
- Examine the need for Congressional Consent



# Transmission Line Compact – Development Process (Cont.)

*Drafting Team (ongoing)*

- Composed of 5-8 state officials, stakeholders, issue experts (typically some overlap w/ Advisory)
- Draft interstate compact language based on Advisory Committee recommendations
- Circulate draft compact to specific states and relevant stakeholder groups for comment



# Transmission Line Compact – Goals

- Simplify and standardize the application and filing process.
- Create a transparent and streamlined process for review and decision making.
- Allow states to consider regional benefits.
- Minimize impediments and delays to the siting of interstate transmission lines.



# Transmission Line Compact – Goals (Cont.)

- Promote regional collaborative decision-making, while providing the opportunity for public review and comments.
- Avail the member states of the provisions in EPACT 2005, while preserving state sovereignty.
- Create a forum for federal agencies and tribes to become part of the siting review process simultaneously with states.
- Create a mechanism that enables international participation if it is desired.





# Transmission Line Compact – Highlights

- Consistent application process
- Uniform timelines
- Standardized review process for both the application and the proposed line
- Opportunity for transparency and public comment
- Identical approval processes across member states



# Transmission Line Compact – Additional Highlights

- Establishment of an Interstate Commission
- Opportunity for federal and tribal participation
- Proven governance structure
- Rulemaking authority
- Dispute resolution mechanisms
- Financing structure paid by the applicant, not the member states



# Transmission Line Compact – Next Steps

- Finalize compact language
- Vet language with interested stakeholders, policymakers, and the community at large for public comment
- Have legislative language ready for consideration beginning in 2013
- Begin education and outreach phase of the project
- Assist states considering the compact



# Contact Information

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Visit CSQ's National Center for Interstate Compacts online at:

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