



ECONOMIST

For Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council

Summary Description

The EISPC Economist will provide the economics support for the 39-state Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council (EISPC), in its effort to form the foundation for a more coherent and comprehensive approach to planning for our nation's long-term electric power needs. Among other duties, the Economist will provide technical input transmission and resource planning scenarios and the associated analyses, and will direct and participate in various aspects of related studies.

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy has allocated \$60 million to stimulate Interconnection-wide studies and planning. This funding creates an opportunity that previously existed only in concept: an Interconnection-wide sharing of assumptions, data, scenarios and modeling efforts, with the potential for coordinated activities that plan and use of existing and future infrastructure cost-effectively. The goal is infrastructural decisionmaking that (a) results in electric service at lowest reasonable delivered cost, (b) enhances electric reliability, (c) deploys new technologies, renewable energy and energy efficiency options cost-effectively, and (e) addresses increasing environmental requirements.

EIPSC is the organization of 39 state jurisdictions east of the Rockies formed to receive a \$14 million portion of this DOE award. EISPC will work with industry representatives (who have formed their own group, the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative ("EIPC" -- also known as the "Topic A" group)) to make continual improvements in long-term planning processes, analytical techniques, planning tools, processes, and databases. EISPC, in concert with EIPC, will also create a structure to ensure continued Interconnection-wide studies, planning tools and processes, and databases.

EISPC's five work priorities are: (a) identifying zones for low- or no-carbon electricity generation; (b) conducting studies (through contractors) on planning options; (c) developing assumptions, scenarios and inputs for industry analyses; (d) providing insight into the economic

and environmental implications of the alternative electricity supply futures and their associated transmission requirements; and (e) creating consensus-building and coordination mechanisms with the industry, government agencies and stakeholders.

The EISPC technical staff will be employees of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI). The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) will be the recipient of the DOE funds. NARUC will enter into a subcontract with NRRI. The EISPC staff will be a unit within the NRRI expert staff, accountable to the EISPC Executive Committee. NRRI's headquarters are in Silver Spring, Maryland, adjacent to Washington, DC.

The DOE funding for this initial phase will be for four (4) years. The States intend to continue this effort beyond the initial four years.

Responsibilities

From an economics perspective --

1. work with EISPC state commissioners and staff to develop assumptions and scenarios for the EIPC's transmission planning work.
2. Guide and assist states in gathering data from their jurisdictional utilities and organizing a central data base.
3. Assess the EIPC's planning studies to ensure appropriate use of planning tools, data, assumptions and scenarios.
4. Make the technical work of EIPC, and EISPC consultants, accessible to the EISPC constituents.
5. Oversee and/or produce the 6-8 studies and up to eight "White Papers" that EISPC is required to perform.
6. Work with EIPSC director to develop work plans, presentations, budgets, and productive relationships with federal agencies and stakeholders.

Qualifications

Education: Advanced degree in Economics, Finance, or Public Administration required. Undergraduate or graduate degrees in these or in engineering, operations research, statistics, mathematics, or business administration is desirable.

Expertise: Training in utility operations, construction, and/or elements of utility planning processes (such as load forecasting, load research, evaluation of demand-side management programs, generation expansion planning and transmission planning); familiarity with renewable

energy; understanding of economic dispatch; familiarity with reliability metrics and the use of state-of-the-art planning tools.

Experience

Requirements: Eight years experience in utility resource planning; ability to apply economic theory to resource and transmission planning; success presenting technical reports to laypeople; success in educating States on transmission and planning related issues; a high-level understanding of the reliability standards enforced by NERC and its Regional Reliability Organizations; familiarity with the DOE, the FERC, and state commissions' jurisdictional issues; familiarity and, ideally, experience with state-of-the-art resource planning tools, analysis, and the requisite data bases.

Highly desirable: Work experience with utilities and regulatory commissions; participation in regional resource studies; experience with a research institution involved with cutting edge planning tools and analysis; experience in using resource/capacity expansion models such as PROMOD, production costing, forecasting models, and statistical applications related to planning; familiarity with "Smart Grid" concepts and as well as integration of renewable resources; experience with Excel and other Microsoft tools including programming skills.

Residence: Residence in the D.C. area is strongly preferred.

U.S. Citizenship required.

How to Apply

Send cover letter and resume to employment@nrri.org. NRRI is an equal opportunity employer. The application process will remain open until we fill this position. The next screening date is July 15, 2010.