

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0111

Electric transmission-consideration of regional issues.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Simpson, Childers, Lockhart and Lubnau and Senator(s) Bebout, Hines, Larson and Schiffer

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public utilities; providing for regional
2 considerations in the regulation of electric transmission;
3 specifying legislative findings; and providing for an
4 effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 37-2-114 and 37-2-122(a) are amended
9 to read:

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11 **37-2-114. Authority to confer with other state and**
12 **federal commissions; expenses.**

13

14 (a) The commission may confer in person, by attending
15 conventions or otherwise, with the members of railroad or
16 other public utility commissions of other states and with

1 the interstate commerce commission on any matters relating
2 to public utilities, and shall be allowed actual traveling
3 expenses when engaged in such work.

4
5 (b) In regulating the transmission of electricity:

6
7 (i) The commission may meet in conjunction with
8 public utility commissions of other states as it determines
9 necessary or convenient to develop common sets of fact
10 finding for regulation of the transmission of electricity
11 in the region;

12
13 (ii) The commission may meet jointly with public
14 utility commissions of other states to conduct hearings on
15 the regulation of the transmission of electricity. The
16 commission shall act independently in entering any order as
17 a result of such hearings;

18
19 (iii) Subject to W.S. 37-2-122, the commission
20 may consider regional effects of its orders upon the
21 utility and may consider requirements imposed upon the
22 utility by the laws of other states within the region or
23 the orders of other commissions within the region.

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1 (c) As used in subsection (b) of this section,
2 "region" includes any state with a border contiguous to
3 Wyoming and the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New
4 Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon and Washington.

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6 **37-2-122. Matters considered in fixing rates; order**
7 **changing services or facilities.**

8
9 (a) In determining what are just and reasonable rates
10 the commission may take into consideration availability or
11 reliability of service, depreciation of plant,
12 technological obsolescence of equipment, expense of
13 operation, physical and other values of the plant, system,
14 business and properties of the public utility whose rates
15 are under consideration. In determining just and
16 reasonable rates for electricity the commission shall
17 consider common sets of facts developed pursuant to W.S.
18 37-2-114(b)(i) and regional benefits provided by the
19 utility, but shall not include in any determination of
20 rates the requirement of another state to develop or
21 maintain any specified source of electrical generation.

22
23 **Section 2.** The legislature finds that in the
24 regulation of electric transmission, regional factors

1 should be considered by the public utility regulatory
2 authorities of the various affected states to best promote
3 the interests of the citizens of the region. The
4 development and use of a common set of facts and other
5 cooperation and coordination between the regulatory
6 authorities in the regulation of electric transmission will
7 help establish market certainty and facilitate business
8 decision making, ultimately resulting in more affordable,
9 reliable and environmentally responsible energy.

10

11 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
12 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
13 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
14 Constitution.

15

16

(END)