

## **2. SUPPORTING THE DEPLOYMENT OF ADVANCED, INNOVATIVE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY**

### **BACKGROUND**

A secure, reliable and resilient electric power grid integrating generation resources serves as a foundation of a growing economy and is critical to our national security; and regulators, policymakers, and consumers expect generating resources and the grid to perform extremely reliably. A significant portion of the nation's transmission facilities are aged and will require a replacement strategy. Environmental regulations, state renewable energy portfolio standards, state and federal tax policies, other economic factors, and technology developments are causing some electric generation resources to retire, while replacement generation, some of it fueled by intermittent resources, is being sited at other locations on the electric power grid.

New innovative cost-effective transmission technologies (including, but not limited to, high-capacity/high-efficiency conductors, and compact transmission towers) commercially are available that can increase grid capacity, improve energy transfers, promote greater stability and resiliency, make more efficient use of rights-of-way, reduce transmission line losses, and help to streamline siting and construction activities. New and advanced replacement transmission facilities can be designed to enable a wide variety of new generating resources as well as address technical, environmental and aesthetic issues that might impede or limit the development and operation of these resources. Crowded utility corridors often allow little room for expansion.

Some states have established policies that encourage the use of advanced transmission line technologies. The policy of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners recognizes the benefits of these technologies to modernize the grid and improve generating resource integration, and encourages electric utilities, grid operators and state public service commissions to consider the cost-effective use of these technologies.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments encourages state legislatures and public service commissions to support utility efforts that: 1) investigate and consider new advanced transmission technologies when replacing aged transmission infrastructure; 2) evaluate new transmission technologies to determine whether they can cost-effectively ensure the continued reliable delivery of electricity while providing greater capacity and enhanced efficiency; 3) consider the ability of these technologies to reduce environmental and visual impacts to communities; and 4) consider the ability of these and other technologies to reduce the overall cost of energy delivery.

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments encourages state legislatures and public service commissions to work with Regional Transmission Organizations/Independent System Operators and other planning authorities to support and encourage consideration of those cost-effective advanced electric transmission infrastructure options that can increase grid capacity, reduce transmission line losses, improve energy transfers, make efficient use of rights-of-way, improve energy efficiency, and help to streamline siting and construction activities in their planning, evaluation and oversight of transmission grid development, especially by utilizing existing transmission corridors.

*Policy Position*

*Supporting the Deployment of Advanced, Innovative Electric Transmission Technology*

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The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments encourages state legislatures and public service commissions to include in their oversight of transmission facilities the consideration and promotion of the appropriate use of advanced electric transmission technologies in support of their interest in the continued provision of affordable, reliable electricity to consumers.

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments requests that a copy of this policy position be forwarded to the governors, lieutenant governors, applicable state and regional regulators including but not limited to public service commissioners, energy department directors, regional transmission operators and legislative presiding officers and energy committee chairs of the member states.