



**An International  
Non-Profit Trade  
Association Working to  
Fulfill the Promise of  
a Twenty-First Century  
North American  
Electric Economy**



“Electricity trade between Canada and the U.S. usually goes unnoticed, reflecting how routine and reliable a transaction such exchanges have become. Likewise, the origin of the electrons being used is rarely considered... There has been a growing recognition of the need to modernize these regimes by tackling certain systemic challenges: a lack of timeliness, predictability, certainty and consistency in review processes; oversight accountability diffused through multiple departments; duplication of requirements at the national and sub-national level; and an absence of effective enforcement.”

*Jim Burpee, President & CEO,  
Canadian Electricity Association,  
October 2013*

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[www.wiresgroup.com](http://www.wiresgroup.com)

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## WIRES Board of Directors

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WIRES focuses exclusively  
on **promoting investment in the  
electric transmission system.**

## WIRES Value Proposition

- **Clear Focus**

WIRES is the only international, non-profit business association focused exclusively on promoting investment in the electric transmission system.

- **A Place at the Table**

WIRES works to make transmission a primary business concern and public policy focus.

- **Meeting Challenges**

Transmission providers today face growing challenges: resistance to siting facilities, scarcity of materials and skilled labor, regulatory uncertainty and jurisdictional questions, physical and transactional stress on the grid, aging infrastructure, increased reliance on remote renewable energy resources, new reliability requirements, and ill-defined regional planning processes and transmission cost allocation approaches.

“**Under-investment** in transmission puts **additional strain on existing resources**, which raises the risk of system disturbances, lengthens restoration time when outages occur, and limits access to remote generation.”

—NERC, 2012 Long-Term Reliability Assessment (2013)

## WIRES Officers — 2015

John Flynn, *President  
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Kathleen Shea, *Secretary  
Vice President, Transmission Development  
Northeast Utilities*

- **Elevating The Issues**

Grid enhancements must be seen as a “public good” and in the national interest. WIRES can take on difficult issues that individual companies cannot, without jeopardizing relationships with customers or regulators and without undue expense.

- **Broad Appeal**

WIRES is designed to be a big tent. Its membership consists of an array of transmission entities, transmission customers, developers and vendors, and services and technology companies that do business in North America and have a common stake in this vital sector.

- **Information and Contacts**

WIRES has become a way to meet and influence key policy makers and industry players.

“It is time to consider taking a **nationwide approach** to the grid, not only to deal with all that jurisdictional friction but also to **employ new technologies to maximize our energy resources**, whether they are fossil fuels, wind, solar, hydro or nuclear plants.”

— Bill Richardson, *Former Secretary of Energy  
and Governor of New Mexico (2014)*

*What WIRES is...*

## WIRES Vision

WIRES envisions a robust and effective Twenty-first Century, High-voltage Electric Transmission System in North America that will make critical contributions to economic growth, technological advancement, and consumer benefits.

## WIRES Mission

WIRES, a non-profit trade association with an international membership, promotes investment in the North American electric transmission system, robust and effective transmission solutions to economic, environmental, and reliability challenges, and the reduction or elimination of uneconomic barriers to transmission development. This mission is accomplished through the development and dissemination of information, strategic advocacy, and innovation in regulatory, policy making, industry, and educational forums.

## WIRES Principles

### • Awareness and Education

WIRES commits to advance the understanding by the public and its representatives of the unique importance of the electric grid and the challenges that slow or prevent its upgrade or expansion in the public interest. WIRES will support and advance cooperation and collaboration among government, industry, and financial institutions in pursuit of energy diversity, access to clean energy supplies, electric reliability, and competitive power market through transmission solutions.

### • Well-Planned Transmission Infrastructure Investment Yields Multiple Benefits

WIRES commits to support effective and timely regional and inter-regional planning procedures and regulations that strengthen and modernize the transmission grid to promote and enhance consumer benefits from improved reliability, operational flexibility, cost-effective electricity, access to new generation including renewable energy development, economic competitiveness, and system security.

### • Effective Transmission Policies Remove Barriers to Investment

WIRES commits to promote state and federal policies that (a) support transmission investment and capital attraction, reduce business, financial, and regulatory risk and promote greater certainty for investors, (b) diminish unreasonable and uneconomic barriers to transmission development, (c) favor competitive bulk power markets, reduce transmission congestion, and improve customer access to all sources of electric generation, including renewable resources, and (d) lead to consistent and efficient regional and inter-regional transmission solutions.

### • Careful And Timely Siting of Facilities

WIRES commits to advocate for efficient and collaborative regional, state, and where necessary federal facilities siting processes and procedures that take account of the interests of all stakeholders, are sensitive to environmental concerns, and also ensure beneficial and timely infrastructure investments.

### • Equitable Allocation of Costs to All Beneficiaries

WIRES commits to work aggressively toward the equitable, economically justified, practical, and where appropriate broad allocation of the costs of transmission facilities and operations across the shared transmission network.



WIRES

[www.wiresgroup.com](http://www.wiresgroup.com)

“Because transmission is a type of investment that will deliver the **most efficiency**, the **most resilience**, the **most access** to diverse low cost energy, and the **most market discipline**, and because the existing transmission system faces such unusual regulatory challenges, transmission is a special case.”

—WIRES' Comment on Returns On Equity for Transmission (2013)

*What WIRES will do...*

## WIRES Members (as of January 2015)



ABB  
Abengoa Solar  
AltaLink (BHE)  
American Electric Power  
American Transmission Co.  
AMSC  
Berkshire Hathaway Energy  
Burns & McDonnell  
California Independent System Operator  
Capital Alpha Partners  
CAPX2020  
Clean Line Energy Partners, LLC.  
CTC Global  
Duke Energy  
Ecology & Environment Inc.  
Iberdrola USA  
ITC Holdings Corp.  
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

Manitoba Hydro  
Midcontinent Independent System Operator  
MYR Group  
National Grid  
Northeast Utilities  
Oncor  
Pacific Gas & Electric  
PJM Interconnection, LLC  
POWER Engineers, Inc.

Quanta Services  
Renewable Energy Systems Americas  
Smart Wire Grid  
Stantec  
Southwest Power Pool  
Sunflower Electric Power Corp.  
Transmission Developers Inc.  
WESCO International

## Recent WIRES Publications and Filings

“Market Resource Alternatives: An Examination of New Technologies in the Electric Transmission Planning Process,” with London Economics (October 2014)

Comments to U.S. EPA on Implementation of the Clean Energy Plan under the Clean Air Act (2014)

Comments to U.S. Dept. of Energy: On Siting Infrastructure on Federal Lands (2013); On the Quadrennial Energy Review (2014); On the triennial Congestion Study, with NEMA (2014)

“The Benefits of Transmission: Identifying and Analyzing the Value of Investment” with The Brattle Group (July 2013)

“Petition for Statement of Policy on Transmission Rates of Return on Equity”(FERC Docket RM13-18-000, June 26, 2013)

“Review of EIPC’s Phase 1 Report” (with the Brattle Group) (2012)

“Employment and Economic Benefits of Transmission Infrastructure Investment in the U.S. and Canada” (May 2011)

“The power sector is in a period of **transition**, with renewable energy resources and natural gas comprising an increasing share of the generation mix. This transition will have **important implications** for the **cost, reliability, and environmental impacts** of the U.S. electricity supply. Optimizing the three will require the **efficient build-out of necessary transmission infrastructure.** . . .”

—The Bipartisan Policy Center

Interested in learning more about membership or about WIRES’ strategic plans?  
Contact James J. Hoecker, Counsel to WIRES and former FERC Chairman  
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