



EPP and Center for Climate and Energy Decision Making Sponsored Seminar

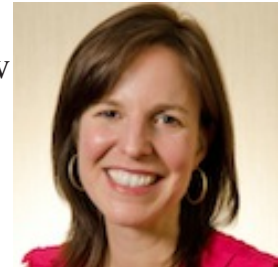
Elizabeth Wilson

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Presenting on:



“Making Electric Futures: Decision Making in Regional Transmission Organizations”

January 26th, 2015

1:30pm

(Light refreshments will be served)

Baker Hall 129 Conference Room

Department of Engineering and Public Policy

Seminar Abstract:

Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) are playing a critical role in the development of the future electricity system, but few studies have examined the processes of decision making within RTOs. RTOs are voluntary organizations authorized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and they bring together a wide-range of energy system stakeholders with competing interests. Transmission owners, utilities, state public utility commissions, industrial consumers and environmental advocacy groups work to shape how RTO committees and working groups are planning the future electric system. Together, these stakeholders must agree on market rules and are responsible for overseeing the operations and planning of electricity systems and markets to achieve desired policy outcomes. However, different RTOs have very different priorities, organizational mandates and are subject to different internal and external pressures. Using the theoretical framework of dissensus, I will present initial results from a multi-university project comparing the decision making processes on renewables integration and transmission planning in three different RTOs. This paper fills critical gaps in the literature: while many studies have analyzed the effects of state and federal policies on energy policy, far fewer have studied the processes of policy development and implementation in electric power markets.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Elizabeth J. Wilson is an Associate Professor of Energy and Environmental Policy and Law at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Her research examines policies and institutions supporting energy system transitions. She holds a doctorate in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University and was selected as a Leopold Leadership Fellow in 2011.