



Improving Transmission Infrastructure Planning

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Wyoming Infrastructure Authority

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The Planning Perspective

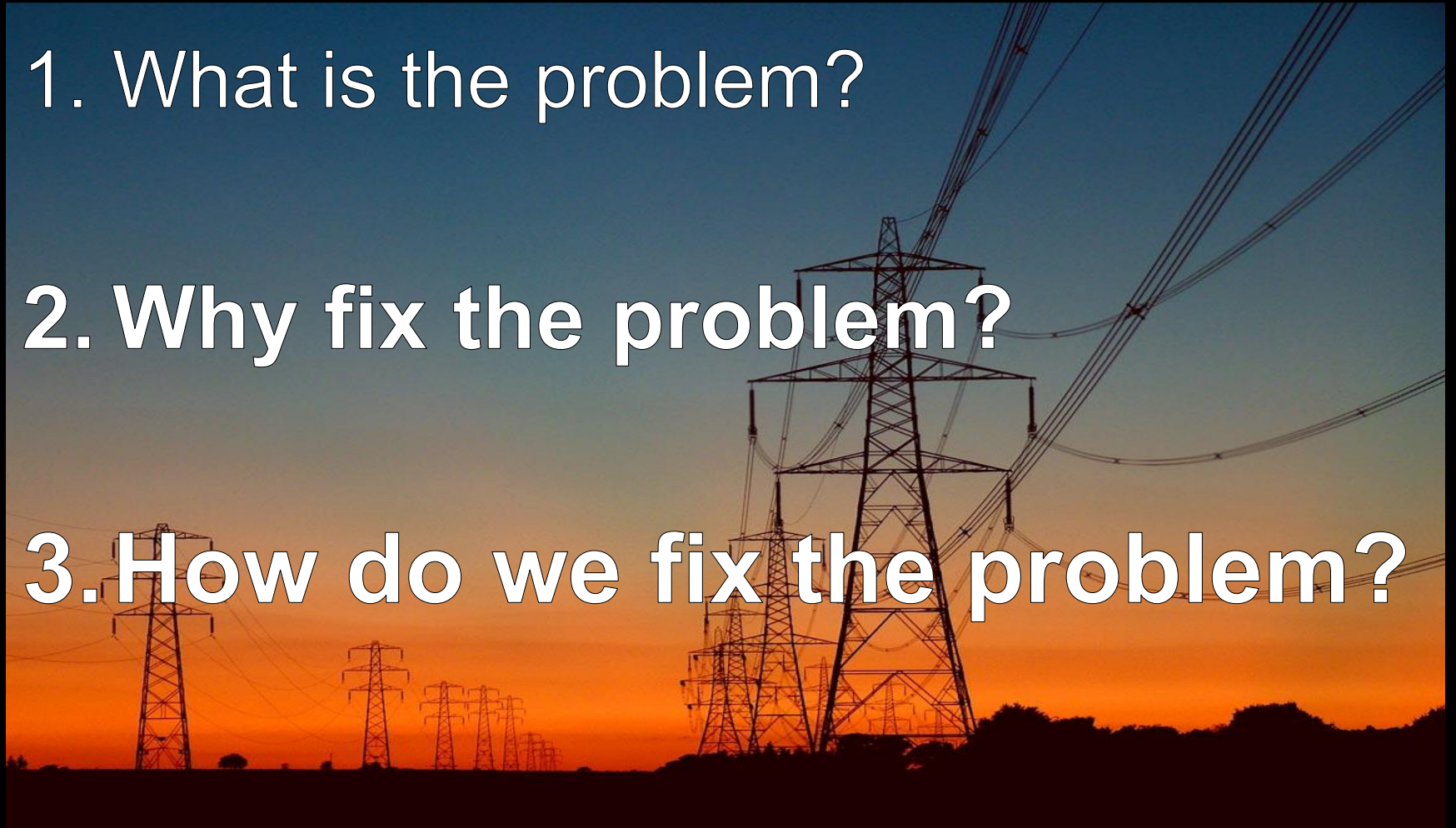
- Planners are interested in:
 - Producing desired results in the future
 - Alleviating challenges, negative impacts
 - Serving the public
 - Preparing for changing economy
 - Environmental conservation
 - Comprehensive Plan

Improving Transmission Planning

1. What is the problem?

2. Why fix the problem?

3. How do we fix the problem?



What is the problem?



Lack of timeliness

1. Redundancies
2. Non-Standard
3. Public Opposition
4. Lack of Experience



(Source: Valjhhala &Fischbeck: 2006; Solan:2011; Yang: 2008; Kaplan: 2009)

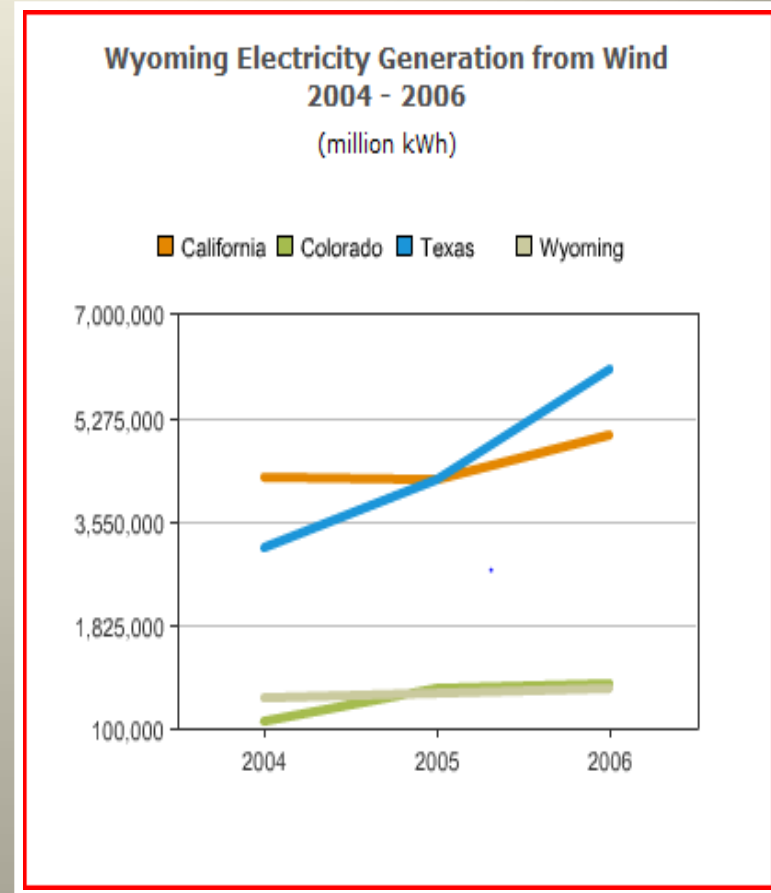
Why fix the problem?

- **Its Antiquated**
 - 70% constructed prior to 1985 using technology from 1950s
- **Its at CAPACITY**
 - Between 1975-1998: Generation  40% as investment  50% while
- **Improve grid efficiency**
- **Diversify energy base**
- **National security**
- **New jobs**

(Lantz and Tegen, 2011:iv; WGA and DOE, 2009:3; Peltka and Finn, 2009)

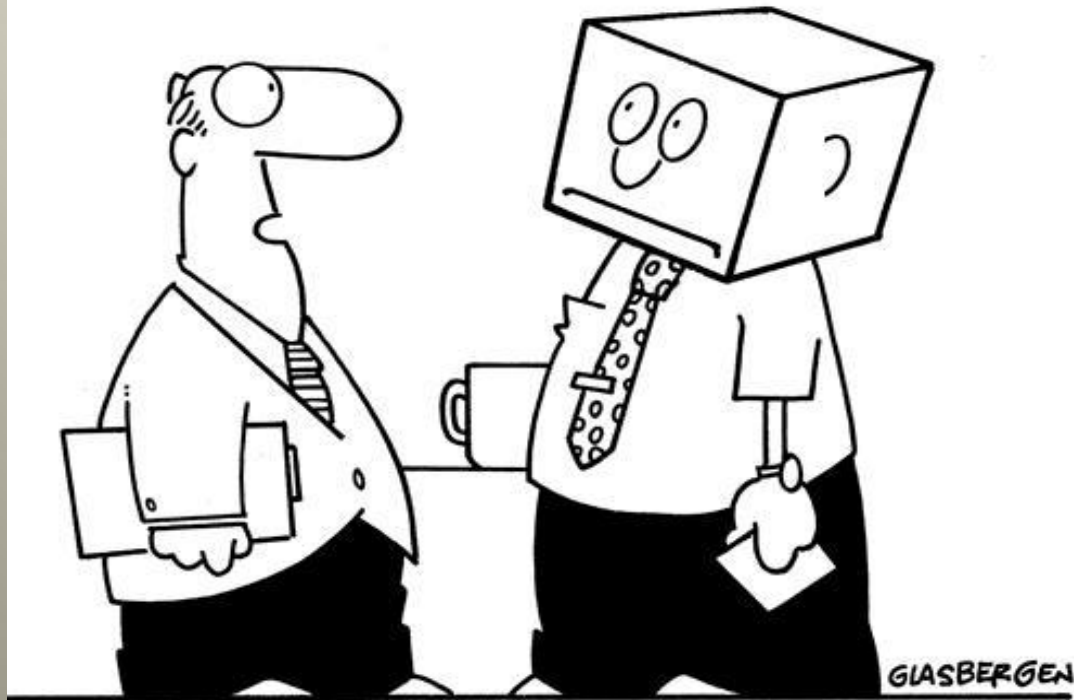
Why fix the problem...?

- In 2010, Wyoming installed 311 MW vs. 680 MW in TX, 455 MW in CA (AWEA, 2011)
- 2 projects permitted by ISC went online in 2010 (Parfitt, 2011)
- Only 1 project permitted by ISC as of July 2011 (Parfitt, 2011)



How do we fix the problem?

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**“Thinking outside of the box is difficult
for some people. Keep trying.”**



Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT)

Aims to improve overall quality and timeliness of transmission permitting, review, & consultation by Federal government on both Federal and non-Federal lands



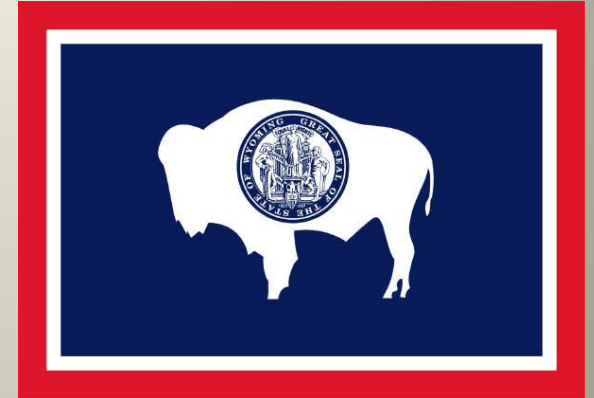
RRTT GOALS

1. **Coordinate** permitting, review, and consultation schedules & processes
2. Apply a **uniform & consistent** approach
3. **Resolve** interagency conflicts
4. Ensure all agencies are fully engaged & **meet timelines**

(Source: www.whitehouse.gov, 2011)

Transmission Planning in WY

- Fragmented Regulations
- No counties have a standard planning code for transmission development
- Limited language in State Statutes regarding County Planning



County Permitting

- Written notice to county describing purpose/need of project and location
- Pre-application meeting
- Change in a zoning ordinance or application for special use /conditional use permit
 - requires public notification , public hearing before a planning and zoning commission (PZC)
 - PZC certifies recommendations to board of county commissioners
 - 2nd public notification ,final public hearing
- Application for , issuance of construction permits
- Environmental, social, and socioeconomic impact statement
- Decommissioning and reclamation plan
- Bond payment
- Graphic illustrations of project
- Description of alternative routes
- Participation in EA/EIS under Cooperative Agency status with BLM
- Application for ROW or easement permit across county land
- County road impact assessment and plan for mitigating potential impacts

State Permitting

- Industrial Siting Council (ISC), Wyoming DEQ
 - Pursuant to W.S. 35-12-101:119
 - Projects \geq \$186.7M
 - Environmental/Social/Socioeconomic impact assessment
 - Reclamation/Decommissioning plan
 - Public Notice & Hearing (45 days after hearing to make decision)
- Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC)
 - Pursuant to W.S. 37-2-201:222
 - Public utility projects \geq 230kV, ROWs required prior
 - Certificate of Public Convenience and Need (CPCN)
 - CPCN Public Notice & Hearings
 - If not serving WY customers, not applicable

1. Eliminate Redundancies

- Accept EISs/EAs, MBTA, ESA, and NHPA requirements as sufficient to fulfill Local & State requirements
- Consider creation of “State Transmission Siting Act”
or
- Consider adopting a “Regional Transmission Siting Act”

(Source: Holland & Hart, 2009; Fox, 2011)

2. Standardize

- Agree on ONE language
- Create standard county-level transmission regulations, sync with State or Regional
- Consistent & Efficient timeframes

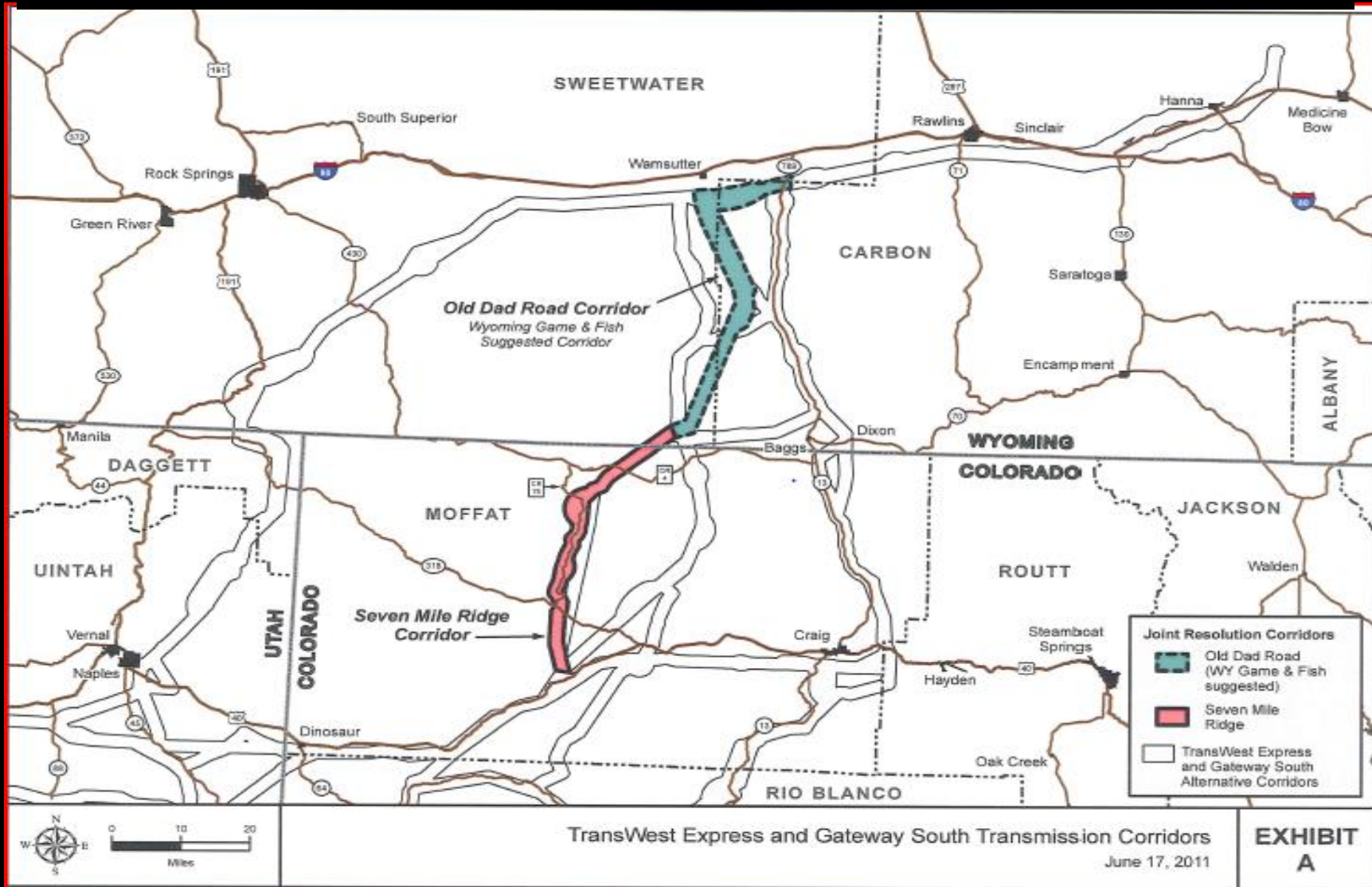


3. Engage the Public

- Public involvement from the start
- Educate, educate, educate!!
- Joint Resolution Preferred Transmission Corridor



Joint Resolution Preferred Transmission Corridors



4. Educate Local Planners

- Unfamiliar with transmission planning
- Need to educate these folks, they are the go-to person for public
- Provide educational opportunities



Summary

GOAL: Improve timeliness while preserving integrity

1. Eliminate Redundancies
2. Standardize
3. Engage public early & often
4. Improve education of planners



Questions

A silhouette of a high-voltage power transmission tower stands centrally against a dramatic sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a dark purple at the top. In the background, the silhouettes of mountains are visible. The tower's lattice structure is clearly defined, and several power lines extend from it across the frame.

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