

OTHER KEY EWG INITIATIVES

ADDRESSING THE BARRIERS TO THE INTERCONNECTION OF POWER GRIDS IN APEC MEMBER ECONOMIES

At the first meeting of the EWG Business Network (Oakland, April 1999) some members recognised that intra-regional energy trade, including electricity interconnections, was an increasingly important issue.

As a first step, it was agreed that a comparative study of the barriers to the interconnection of power grids in APEC member economies should be undertaken. The Business Network agreed that a considerable body of experience was available in APEC economies and that they could assist the study by providing information on inter-connection projects within their economies.

This project was subsequently endorsed by EWG17 in Oakland, April 1999.

The project builds upon the February 2000 “Power Interconnections in the Asia Pacific Region” study conducted by Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre at the request of the EWG and aims to evaluate the barriers to the development of intra-regional energy infrastructure investment in APEC economies. It includes:

- An assessment of the policy, technical, regulatory, structural, legal and financing barriers and the strategies that address the barriers to energy infrastructure investment and the attainment of transit rights;
- An examination of regional and international models of investment protection agreements and the regulatory implication of these;
- Recommendations to overcome impediments to the interconnection of power grids; and
- Summaries of the main interconnection projects within APEC, including the Greater Mekong and Northeast Asia interconnection projects.

A report has been completed and posted to the EWG’s web-site prior to approval by EWG23. A copy of the Executive Summary is at [Attachment A](#). However, the full report may be downloaded from <http://www.apecenergy.org.au/welcome/publications/index.html>

The final component of the project involves the dissemination of findings through two workshops.

The first workshop will be held in Singapore, 22-23 April 2002 and will discuss the Greater Mekong Interconnection and ASEAN Interconnection Projects. A host for the second workshop is currently being pursued. It is anticipated that the second workshop will focus on the Northeast Asia Interconnection Projects, but will also be of relevance to all other economies.

Action Proposed for the Twenty-Third Meeting

- Members to note the progress being made on addressing the barriers to the interconnection of power grids and provide comment if they wish.