



Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council

ECONOMIST

For Eastern Interconnection States Planning Council

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Economist represents the States and the District of Columbia in the conduct of the Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council (EISPC) studies. This historic endeavor is initially funded by an award from the United States Department of Energy (DOE) pursuant to a provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). EISPC received an award under Topic B of the DOE's Funding Opportunity Announcement 0000068 (FOA 68). This Initiative is unparalleled in its scope, in the application of state-of-the-art planning tools, expertise, and long-term public policy ramifications. The Economist, reports to the Director and shall support the States in the collaborative regional planning meetings with the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative EIPC, which is the recipient of an award under FOA 68 Topic A, and other forums as directed by the EIPSC Director or designated representatives of the States.

The Economist is expected to provide technical input into the transmission and resource planning scenarios and the associated analysis. The Economist is also expected to direct and participate in various aspects of related studies. The Economist is expected to help assure that milestones are met successfully, on time, and within budget.

Working Relationships: The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC – the recipient of the DOE funds) will enter into a subcontract with the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) to provide the staffing for EISPC. NRRI has long experience advising state commissions in general and providing transmission policy expertise in particular. The EISPC Economist and other staff are responsible for assisting the EISPC effort will therefore be a unit within the NRRI expert staff, within NRRI's salary and administrative structure. NRRI's headquarters are in Silver Spring, Maryland, adjacent to Washington, DC. The Council has not decided whether all meetings will be in DC but it is expected that most meetings will occur in DC and the EISPC Economist is expected to attend most – if not all - of those meetings. While preferable, it is not a requirement that the Economist reside in the DC area. The EISPC Economist should expect some travel will be required.

The initial Study will be for four (4) years. However, it is the intention of the States to continue this effort beyond the initial four years.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Education:

- Advanced degree in Economics, Finance, or Public Administration.
- In addition to an advanced degree in Economics, Finance, or Public Administration, undergraduate or graduate degrees in these or other disciplines such as: engineering, operations research, statistics, mathematics, or business administration is desirable.
- Training in utility operations, construction, and / or elements of utility planning processes such as load forecasting, load research, evaluation of demand-side management programs (including demand response, price responsive demand, and energy efficiency / conservation), generation expansion planning, transmission planning, familiarity with renewable energy, understanding of economic dispatch, familiarity with reliability metrics, and the use of state-of-the-art planning tools are highly desirable.

Experience:

- Minimum of 8 years experience in utility resource planning. A demonstrable ability to apply economic theory to resource and transmission planning. The ideal candidate will have work experience with a utility and regulatory commission.
- Demonstrable ability to prepare and present clear and concise written and oral summaries/reports of the studies is essential. It is necessary that such reports be concise and understandable for a broad audience ranging from laymen to experts.
- Familiarity and, ideally, experience with state-of-the-art resource planning tools, analysis, and the requisite data bases is required. The ideal candidate will demonstrate that they have participated in one or more regional resource studies. Experience with a research institution involved with cutting edge planning tools and analysis, as an employee or in an advisory capacity, is ideal.
- Experience in using resource / capacity expansion models such as PROMOD, production costing, forecasting models, and statistical applications related to planning are desirable.
- Familiarity with “Smart Grid” and as well as integration of renewable resources is desirable.
- Serves to educate the States on transmission and planning related issues.
- Experience with Excel and other Microsoft tools including programming skills is a plus.
- At least a high level of understanding of the reliability standards enforced by NERC and its Regional Reliability Organizations.
- Familiarity with the DOE, the FERC, and state commissions’ jurisdictional issues is essential.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- An ability to work with minimum supervision but be responsive to the EISPC Director and representatives of the States. This may include assistance with the budget preparation, organization of meetings, making presentations, and other duties.
- While the Economist will be extensively involved with those entities that are charged with much of the planning analysis (EIPC), it is imperative that the Economist be mindful of the independence of the States in the process and the Transmission Planner's obligation to the States.
- Contribute toward the States' efforts to establish and maintain good working relationships with the EIPC and all stakeholders.
- Assist the EISPC Director in establishing working relationships with DOE's National Laboratories, the Electric Power Research Institute, universities that are conducting related research, the Edison Electric Institute, the American Public Power Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, developers of renewable energy, and other organizations that have an interest and expertise in areas relevant to the on-going conduct of the Eastern Interconnection Study.
- Help EISPC with developing assumptions and scenarios for the EIPC's transmission planning. In this regard, the Economist is expected to work with the EIPC to facilitate the acquisition of appropriate data. In some instances, the relevant state commission(s) will have to be enlisted to obtain data from their jurisdictional utilities.
- Oversee the EIPC's planning studies to ensure their use of planning tools, data, assumptions, scenarios are appropriate and their analysis is well-reasoned.
- Translate the work/results of the EIPC to the EISPC in a manner that is understandable and concise;
- Direct or assist in directing as well as participating in the conduct of the 6-8 studies and up to eight "White Papers." that EISPC is required to perform.
- Help to meet milestones - including preparing reports to DOE.
- Assist the EISPC Director and States in preparing a work plan, budgets, and proposals for funding beyond the initial four years. Provide expert assistance to the States to improve their data bases and planning processes if requested to do so.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:

US Citizenship

COMPENSATION:

Total compensation, subject to specific qualifications of the candidate, ranges between \$145,000 and \$150,000; inclusive of employer-funded 401k contributions and other benefits.

HOW TO APPLY:

Send cover letter and resume to employment@nrri.org. NRRI is an equal opportunity employer.