

2006 TASK GROUP ON GOVERNANCE (TGoGOVERNANCE)

PURPOSE & AUTHORITY

NEESinc governance structure is complex with decision-making authority distributed among the Board, the Standing Committees, NEESinc and its subawardees. Complicating matters, subawardees represent a substantial constituency of membership on both the Board and Committees. Although the current governance structure provides a high degree of community representation, experience has shown that decision making processes within NEES is inefficient, and decision making authority and accountability are unclear. Further, there is a high degree of reliance on volunteers who already have extensive responsibilities outside of NEES. The 2006 NSF Site Visit Team (SVT) report identifies as threats “unclear lines of authority and decision making between NEESinc and the Board” and “too much reliance on decision making by committee process”.

The Board, at its June 23-24, 2006 meeting in Washington D.C., authorized establishment of an ad hoc Task Group (“TGoGovernance”) to explore alternative governance models of comparable organizations, and seek to refine and streamline NEESinc’s governance model for more efficient operation as NEES moves toward mature long-term operations. TGoGovernance will make extensive use of an executive management consultant(s) to assist in the critique of the existing NEESinc governance model and the exploration of alternative models. A preliminary report as well as a consultant-facilitated discussion of governance roles and responsibilities should be presented to the Board at the August strategy retreat with follow up and final recommendations presented at the November Board meeting.

TASK GROUP MEMBERS (To Be Invited)

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| • Ian Buckle, UNR, <i>Chair</i> | Past President |
| • Helmut Krawinkler, Stanford | Retired Board Member, Prior TGoComm Member |
| • Roberto Leon, GaTech | President |
| • Bruce Kutter, UC-Davis | Vice President |
| • Cliff Roblee, NEESinc | NEESinc Executive Director |

EXPERT RESOURCES FOR CONSULTATION & SUPPORT (To Be Invited)

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| • TBN | <i>Management Consultant</i> |
| • Chris Rojahn | ATC Executive Director, NEESinc Treasurer |
| • Katy Schmoll | UCAR Executive Director |
| • David Simpson | IRIS Executive Director |

TASK GROUP GOALS

1. Get independent review of NEESinc governance structure and decision-making model and compare with that used in comparable organizations. Explore options and develop recommendations for streamlining the NEESinc process.
2. Clarify roles, lines of authority, and accountability of the Board, Committees, and NEESinc management. Clarify the distinction between ‘policy/strategic’ matters for Board/Committee consideration from ‘operational’ matters that should be the responsibility of NEESinc.
3. Examine processes for addressing potential conflict of interest arising from intertwined roles.
4. Explore means to reduce time demands on volunteer Board and Committee members while maintaining a satisfactory level of engagement.
5. Coordinate with TGoSuccess in establishing performance metrics to measure effectiveness of governance processes.