

Energy and Utilities Technical Working Group

14 September 2011

Meeting Notes

These meeting notes are provided as is and may be augmented or clarified as members of the group exchange e-mails and phone calls. The notes are not necessarily provided in the order they were discussed and likely contain errors as they are based on the memory of the writer.

Agenda

1. Priorities: Energy versus Utilities
 1. Economic Development
 2. Simplified regulatory compliance
2. Energy Prospectors
 1. Sample: <http://www.vtenergyatlas.com/>
 2. Energy layers
 3. Energy development restricted areas
 4. Wind energy and Idaho counties

http://www.idcounties.org/vertical/Sites/%7B971BB846-EA97-469D-BEEA-D69CC59B07F3%7D/uploads/Wind_Energy_Siting_Ordinances_in_Idaho.pdf

3. Data exchange standards development for Utilities
4. Open discussion from the group

Attendees

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Brian Liberty | Idaho Power |
| 2. Dan P. Jensen | Idaho National Lab |
| 3. Dixie Booker-Lair | Idaho Department of Lands |
| 4. Randi Rich | Avista Energy |
| 5. Rod Collins | Bureau of Land Management |
| 6. Ryan McDaniel | Idaho Department of Water Resources |

Those at last meeting not at this meeting

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| 1. Angie Hopf | City of Caldwell |
| 2. Charlla Adams | Boise State University |
| 3. Mark Wasdahl | Idaho Department of Transportation |
| 4. Paul Reyes | Idaho Geospatial Office |
| 5. Scott Van Hoff | USGS |

Discussion

Discussion started with the observation that the sensitive and proprietary nature of utility data did not make it less needed, but suggests the data should be a lower priority due to the difficulty of developing it. As discussion progressed, Ryan McDaniel articulated the

need for utility data to prepare for natural disasters. Ironically, utility data is sensitive because of the possibility to use it to create man made disasters. However, it is just as valuable to respond and recover from all types of disasters. Using GIS data to recover from a disaster is most useful to the organization/utility that is impacted. Uses by other agencies to help a utility recover needs further investigation.

Discussion then turned to the purpose of having the data identified by the framework elements. Dan proposed that data was most useful if it aided economic development, simplified regulatory compliance or simplified regulatory enforcement. Data that aided these purposes should be identified and prioritized.

The point was made that there are several state and federal agencies independently requesting data from private and municipal utilities, one potential benefit for utilities would be to reduce the number of people requesting GIS data for a particular framework element. Ryan McDaniel mentioned the benefit provided by a data exchange standard as in the case of the Elevation TWGs standard for LiDar data. It was also mentioned that the parcel framework standard provides for a general distribution version and government version that is restricted.

It was concluded that much depended on the level of detail needed. This needs further investigation.

As an example of the framework data facilitating economic development the group discussed Energy Prospectors. Dan provided an example of one excellent energy prospector and mentioned that INL will be deploying an energy prospector for the nation in the coming days. As the group discussed what a renewable energy prospector was it was mentioned that small energy development projects increase work for utilities. Later it was concluded that distributed generation was the way the nation was going and that energy prospectors have value.

The group in general agreed that it may be possible to provide energy potential information by developing a page of links to existing data. There was no need to reinvent the wheel, the group concluded. Dan suggested that the group should consider developing layers that show lands restricted to renewable energy development, particularly wind generation. The linked document from Idaho Association of Counties shows that all Idaho counties approach restricting the siting of wind generation towers differently if at all. It was concluded and Dan agreed to begin formulating a list of renewable energy potential data available to the public.

There was limited discussion regarding lack of digital data for municipal utilities such as water and sewer in smaller communities. Regional resource centers may prove to be a help to the small municipalities with this regard.

Discussion finalized on beginning by developing data exchange standards as a first step for the utility framework elements, especially the storm water infrastructure.

Further Work

Dan to provide links to sites with energy potential or utility data for Idaho discovered to date.
Dan to look into obtaining Service Area and Transmission Line layers used on the Idaho Wind Energy Map. If they are obtained Dan will distribute to the group.

Dan to begin assembling a list of existing energy potential data.

Next Meeting

Dan will work on scheduling a face to face meeting in conjunction with the NW ESRI Users Group meeting \ Idaho GIS Forum, this October in Boise, ID. If possible a conference call will be established to facilitate those not able to be present.