



# **WESTCONNECT REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING**

2016-17 PLANNING CYCLE

REGIONAL STUDY PLAN

APPROVED BY WESTCONNECT PMC ON MARCH 16, 2016

---

# Contents

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	WestConnect Regional Transmission Planning Process .....	3
1.2	2015 Regional Planning Cycle .....	5
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Overview of 2016–17 Regional Transmission Planning Activities .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Schedule .....	5
2.2	Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement .....	7
2.3	Interregional Coordination.....	8
<b>3.0</b>	<b>The Planning Process.....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1	Development of Regional Models .....	9
3.2	Scenarios in the Planning Process .....	11
3.3	Regional Power Flow Models (PFMs) .....	13
3.4	Regional Production Cost Model (PCM).....	15
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Regional Transmission Assessment Methodology .....</b>	<b>17</b>
4.1	Local versus Regional Transmission Issues .....	17
4.2	Regional Reliability Assessment .....	17
4.3	Regional Economic Assessment .....	19
4.4	Regional Public Policy Assessment.....	20
4.5	Identifying Regional Transmission Needs .....	23
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Alternatives to Meet Regional Needs .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Evaluation and Selection of Regional Alternatives .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Regional Cost Allocation .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Issuance of a Regional Study Plan .....</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>Appendix A – Base Transmission Plan Process.....</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>Appendix B – Base Transmission Plan (2016–2026 Projects) .....</b>	<b>28</b>
	<b>Appendix C – WestConnect Regional Project Submittal Form .....</b>	<b>41</b>
	<b>Appendix D –WestConnect Scenario Submittal Form .....</b>	<b>50</b>
	<b>Appendix E – Other Regional Planning Process Activities.....</b>	<b>52</b>
	<b>Appendix F – Data Exchange Procedures for Regional Model Development .....</b>	<b>53</b>

# 1.0 Introduction

The WestConnect Planning Management Committee (PMC) has responsibility for all WestConnect regional planning activities. The planning process activities described within this study plan will be conducted under the direction of the PMC by the Planning Subcommittee (PS) with input from WestConnect Transmission Owners (TOs)<sup>1</sup>, Subregional Planning Groups<sup>2</sup> (SPGs), and stakeholders as described in greater detail in subsequent sections of this document.

The first step of the WestConnect Regional Transmission Planning Process involves the development of a Regional Study Plan which identifies the scope and schedule of the study work to be performed during the planning cycle. This document reflects the WestConnect Study Plan (Study Plan) for the 2016–17 planning cycle.

## 1.1 WestConnect Regional Transmission Planning Process

The WestConnect Regional Transmission Planning Process was developed for compliance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) [\*Order No. 1000, Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation by Transmission Owning and Operating Public Utilities\*](#), (Order No. 1000).<sup>3</sup> The planning process is performed biennially, beginning in even-numbered years, and consists of seven primary steps as outlined in Figure 1.

The WestConnect Planning Process is in conformance with Order No. 1000 as supplemented by numerous Compliance Filings and resulting FERC Orders. Readers can access the text of the compliance documentation on the WestConnect website,<sup>4</sup> and are encouraged to consult the compliance documentation and the WestConnect Business Practice Manual (BPM) for additional process information. Also, for TOs that are jurisdictional to the FERC, their FERC-approved tariff may preside over this document.

---

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this document, “TO” refers to a Transmission Owner with Load Serving Obligation (“TOLSO”).

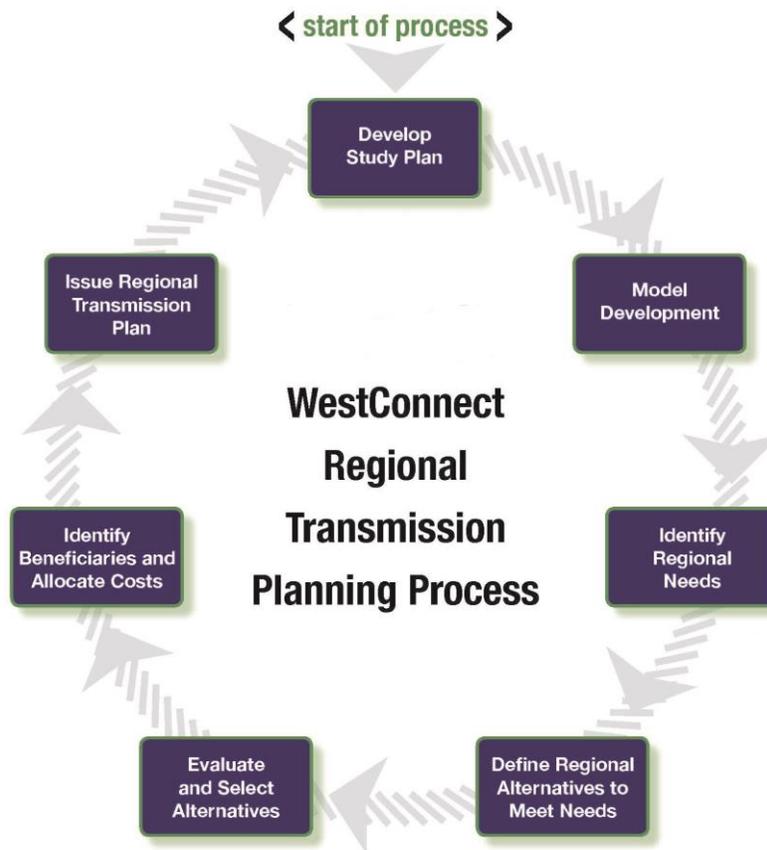
<sup>2</sup> The WestConnect Subregional Planning Groups consist of the Southwest Transmission Planning Group (SWAT), the Sierra Subregional Planning Group (SSPG), and the Colorado Coordinated Planning Group (CCPG).

<sup>3</sup> All references to Order No. 1000 include any subsequent orders.

<sup>4</sup> [www.westconnect.com](http://www.westconnect.com)

1

Figure 1: WestConnect Regional Transmission Planning Process



2

3 The WestConnect Regional Transmission Planning Cycle (planning cycle) is biennial. The biennial cycle  
 4 commences in even-numbered years, resulting in the development of a Regional Transmission Plan  
 5 every other year. During the biennial planning cycle, WestConnect will perform system assessments and  
 6 determine if there are any regional reliability, economic, or public policy needs. If regional needs are  
 7 identified WestConnect will solicit alternatives (transmission or non-transmission alternatives (NTAs))  
 8 from WestConnect members and stakeholders to determine if they have the potential to meet any  
 9 identified regional needs. WestConnect will then evaluate those alternatives to determine whether any  
 10 alternatives meet the identified regional needs, and which alternatives provide the more cost-effective  
 11 or efficient solution. The more efficient or cost-effective regional projects will be identified in the  
 12 WestConnect Regional Transmission Plan. Any regional alternatives that were submitted for the  
 13 purposes of regional cost allocation and selected into the Regional Transmission Plan may go through  
 14 the cost allocation process if they are deemed to be eligible for regional cost allocation.

15 Additional details of the WestConnect Regional Transmission Planning Process can be reviewed in the  
 16 BPM, which is posted to the WestConnect website.<sup>5</sup>

17

---

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.westconnect.com/planning\\_order\\_1000\\_bpm.php](http://www.westconnect.com/planning_order_1000_bpm.php)

## 1.2 2015 Regional Planning Cycle

In 2015 WestConnect conducted an abbreviated one-year regional planning cycle, which concluded with the first Regional Plan approved by the PMC on December 16, 2015. Given the shortened timeframe of the 2015 cycle, the 2015 Study Plan had a limited technical scope. During the model development phase of the 2015 cycle, WestConnect constructed a single regional power flow model representative of a 2024 heavy summer condition. Once the PMC approved the aforementioned 2024 summer regional power flow model, the WestConnect Planning Subcommittee conducted the regional needs assessment using that model. This regional reliability transmission needs assessment, which was conducted in an open and transparent manner with input from PMC members and stakeholders, did not identify any performance issues that either (a) resulted in potential regional issues in more than one member TO system, or (b) caused a regional issue on a member TO system that was different than the contingency/outage owner. Based on this assessment, there were no regional transmission needs identified in the 2015 assessment.

The 2015 cycle did not include a comprehensive analysis for *economic* driven transmission needs because of the abbreviated timeline. However, WestConnect did review results from the WECC 2024 Common Case, spent time updating the model with more up-to-date assumptions, and explored metrics to identify economic need (congestion) in future planning cycles.

In the 2015 cycle, the regional power flow model was also used to evaluate public policy needs by determining if adequate transmission facilities were available to access renewable resources required to achieve enacted public policy (Renewable Portfolio Standards, or RPS).

The 2015 Regional Plan<sup>6</sup> documents the process and analysis described above.

## 2.0 Overview of 2016–17 Regional Transmission Planning Activities

### 2.1 Schedule

Table 1 below provides an overview of the expected schedule of activities to be conducted as part of the 2016–17 planning cycle. This schedule is subject to change. Changes to the schedule of activities outlined below will be noticed on the WestConnect website, emailed to stakeholder lists, and discussed at committee meetings.

Table 1: Tentative Schedule for 2016–17 Regional Planning Cycle

<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Quarter of Cycle</i>	<i>2016–2017 Activity</i>
November 19, 2015	Q8 (prior)	WestConnect Stakeholder Meeting to discuss the draft Study Plan and scenario process with Stakeholders
November 20, 2015	Q8 (prior)	TPPL <sup>7</sup> data entry window opens
December 1, 2015	Q8 (prior)	Draft Regional Study Plan posted to WestConnect

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.westconnect.com/filestorage/12\\_16\\_15\\_wc\\_2015\\_regional\\_transmission\\_plan.pdf](http://www.westconnect.com/filestorage/12_16_15_wc_2015_regional_transmission_plan.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> TPPL stands for WestConnect Transmission Plan Project List and is discussed in Section 3.1.

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Quarter of Cycle</b>	<b>2016–2017 Activity</b>
		website (v1)
December 1, 2015	Q8 (prior)	Scenario submittal window opens
December 11, 2015	Q8 (prior)	Stakeholder comments on draft Study Plan due to WestConnect
December 18, 2015	Q8 (prior)	TPPL data entry window closes
December 31, 2015	Q8 (prior)	Scenario submittal window closes
February 1, 2016	Q1	Draft Regional Study Plan posted to WestConnect website (v2)
February 24, 2016	Q1	WestConnect Stakeholder Meeting to present draft Regional Study Plan
February 25, 2016	Q1	Interregional Coordination Meeting
March 31, 2016	Q1	Final Regional Study Plan posted to WestConnect website
March 31, 2016	Q1	Interregional Transmission Project (ITP) submittal deadline <sup>8</sup>
September 2016	Q3	Regional models finalized
December 2016	Q4	Final regional transmission needs posted to WestConnect website
December 2016	Q4	Stakeholder meeting to discuss identified regional needs
January 2017	Q5	Submittal window opens for projects to meet the posted regional needs. Submittal window lasts for no less than 30 days
September 2017	Q7	WestConnect posts listing of projects meeting an identified regional need selected for the purposes of cost allocation
October 2017	Q8	Initiate Study Plan development for 2018–2019 planning cycle
November 2017	Q8	Draft Regional Plan posted to WestConnect website
November 2017	Q8	WestConnect meeting to discuss the draft Regional Plan with stakeholders
Two weeks following stakeholder meeting	Q8	Stakeholder comments on draft Regional Plan due to WestConnect
December 2017	Q8	Final 2016–17 Regional Plan posted to WestConnect website

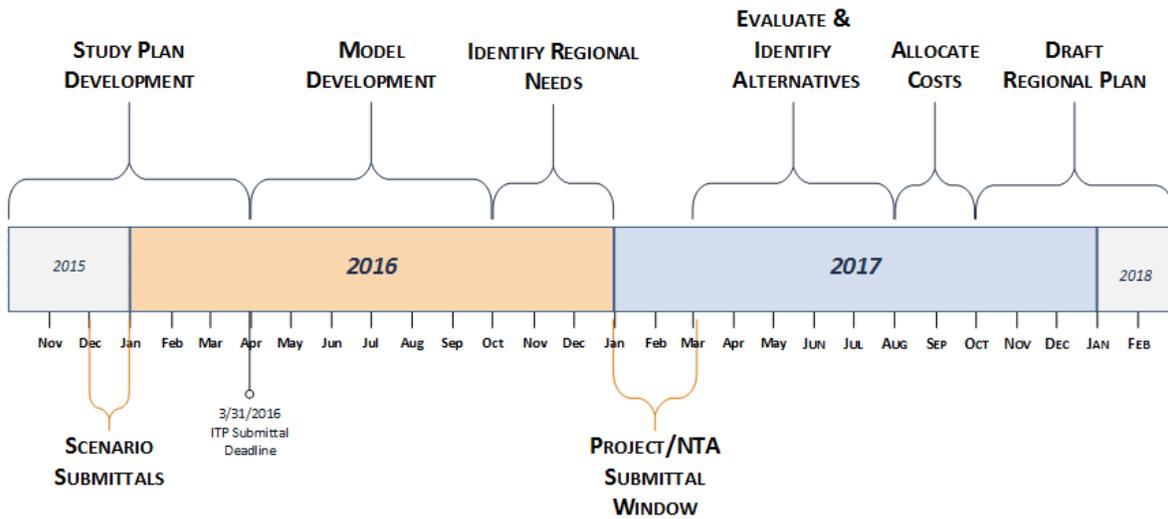
- 1 The 2016-17 regional planning cycle timeline is shown in
- 2 Figure 2.

---

<sup>8</sup> The timing of this ITP submittal deadline early in 2016, as opposed to after the PMC's identification of regional transmission needs, is driven by the fact that the four Western planning regions' coordination activities require, no later than March 31st, an identification of ITPs submitted into the regional processes of all relevant planning regions. For the WestConnect region, the PMC will not begin evaluating whether an ITP may satisfy an identified regional transmission need in the WestConnect region until after the PMC identifies regional transmission needs at year-end 2016.

1  
2

Figure 2: 2016-17 Planning Cycle Timeline



3

## 4 2.2 Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement

5 The WestConnect regional planning process is performed in an open and transparent manner to attain  
 6 objective analysis and results. WestConnect invites and encourages interested parties or entities to  
 7 participate in and provide input to the regional transmission planning process at all planning process  
 8 levels. Stakeholders have opportunities to participate in and provide input to local transmission plans as  
 9 provided for in each Member TO's OATT. Further, stakeholders have opportunities to participate in and  
 10 provide input into subregional planning efforts within the [Sierra Subregional Planning Group](#) (SSPG),  
 11 [Colorado Coordinated Planning Group](#) (CCPG), and [Southwest Area Transmission](#) (SWAT).

12 All WestConnect planning meetings are open to stakeholders (with the exception of PMC closed sessions  
 13 which will be identified in agendas distributed prior to meetings and posted on the [website](#)).  
 14 Stakeholders' opportunities for timely input and meaningful participation are available throughout the  
 15 WestConnect planning process. More specifically, WestConnect will be accepting formal stakeholder  
 16 comments on the following reports planned to be created during the 2016–17 planning cycle:

- 17 • Study Plan, including scenario submittals
- 18 • Model Development
- 19 • Regional Needs Assessment
- 20 • Alternative Evaluation (if applicable)<sup>9</sup>
- 21 • Cost Allocation (if applicable)<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> The Alternative Evaluation will only occur if a regional need is identified

<sup>10</sup> Cost Allocation will only occur if a project seeking cost allocation is identified and chosen as the more efficient or cost effective alternative to meet an identified regional need

- 1       • Regional Transmission Plan.

2 In addition, WestConnect will conduct at least two “stakeholder meetings” per year to update  
3 stakeholders on the planning process and collect input. Additional meetings may be scheduled as  
4 needed. Notice of all stakeholder meetings and stakeholder comment periods will be posted to the  
5 WestConnect website.

## 6 **2.3 Interregional Coordination**

7 WestConnect will coordinate planning data and information with the three other established Planning  
8 Regions in the Western Interconnection (i.e., California ISO, ColumbiaGrid, and Northern Tier  
9 Transmission Group) by:

- 10       • Participating in annual interregional coordination meetings;
- 11       • Distributing regional planning data or information such as:
- 12           ○ Draft Regional Study Plan
- 13           ○ Final Regional Study Plan
- 14           ○ Files and data used to compile regional models
- 15           ○ Regional Transmission Needs Assessment Report
- 16           ○ List of Interregional Transmission Projects (ITPs) submitted to WestConnect
- 17           ○ Assessments and selection of ITPs into Regional Plan
- 18           ○ Draft Regional Transmission Plan
- 19           ○ Final Regional Transmission Plan
- 20       • Sharing planning data and models if and when requested; and
- 21       • Participating in a coordinated ITP evaluation process, as necessary, when an ITP is submitted to  
22 WestConnect as an alternative to meet an identified regional need.

23 The process WestConnect intends to utilize to conduct its interregional coordination activities is  
24 described in the WestConnect Regional Planning Process BPM posted to the WestConnect website.<sup>11</sup>

### 25 **ITP Submittals**

26 An ITP is defined in the common tariff language developed for the Order 1000 interregional compliance  
27 filings as *a proposed new transmission project that would directly interconnect electrically to existing or*  
28 *planned transmission facilities in two or more planning regions and that is submitted into the regional*  
29 *transmission planning processes of all such planning regions.* If an ITP proponent desires to have their  
30 project included in the WestConnect base transmission plan, they must submit their project per the  
31 process described under Section 3.1 Regional Base Transmission Plan. If an ITP proponent seeks cost  
32 allocation and/or desires to have their project evaluated to meet an identified regional need, they must  
33 submit their project to WestConnect via the WestConnect Regional Project Submittal Form no later than  
34 March 31, 2016, in order to allow WestConnect to coordinate the ITP evaluation process with all other  
35 Relevant Planning Regions. At this time, the ITP proponent need not identify which regional

---

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.westconnect.com/planning\\_order\\_1000\\_bpm.php](http://www.westconnect.com/planning_order_1000_bpm.php)

1 transmission need the project proposes to address and they do not need to submit the \$25,000 study  
2 deposit for project submittals. Following the needs identification phase of the regional planning process,  
3 and once the project submittal window opens, if the ITP proponent wishes for WestConnect to evaluate  
4 their project as an alternative to an identified regional need, the ITP proponent must submit any  
5 updated project information, must identify the regional transmission need the project proposes to  
6 address, and must submit the \$25,000 study deposit consistent with the process described under  
7 Section 5.0 to be considered a valid project submittal. Any ITP properly submitted to WestConnect as an  
8 alternative to an identified regional need will be evaluated together with any regional alternatives  
9 properly submitted during the project submittal window described in Section 5.0.

## 10 **3.0 The Planning Process**

### 11 **3.1 Development of Regional Models**

12 During Quarters 2 and 3 of the 2016–17 planning cycle, the models that are needed to perform the  
13 regional transmission assessments will be developed as described in this section. Three types of  
14 assessments will be performed during the planning process: Reliability (steady state and/or transient),  
15 Economic (production cost), and Public Policy. However, the Public Policy assessment will utilize the  
16 Reliability and Economic planning tools and models<sup>12</sup>. The Western Electricity Coordinating Council  
17 (WECC) prepares both reliability and economic models, which include the systems of all WECC TOs.  
18 These models will be used as the foundation for the models that WestConnect will develop and use for  
19 the regional transmission need assessments.

20 Members and participants will update the WECC models, as described in more detail below, to ensure  
21 the WestConnect footprint is properly represented.<sup>13</sup> To the extent WestConnect receives updated  
22 modeling data from TOs outside of the WestConnect planning region during the development of the  
23 regional models, it will be considered and, if appropriate, incorporated into the regional models. The  
24 PMC will approve the WestConnect models prior to their use in the regional needs assessment. The PMC  
25 will not evaluate regional transmission needs for systems outside of the WestConnect planning region.

26 The PMC will conduct an assessment of the region’s transmission needs in the 10-year timeframe, using  
27 models developed around the 2026 timeframe. The study horizon guides which WECC Base Cases and  
28 Common Case are used as the foundations for the regional models since the study year(s) of the WECC  
29 models should correspond most closely with the study horizon in the regional planning effort.

### 30 **Study Area**

31 The WestConnect planning process evaluates the regional transmission needs solely of the WestConnect  
32 planning region, which is defined as the combined footprints of signatories to the Planning Participation  
33 Agreement (PPA) within the Transmission Owner (TO) Member Sector. TO Members participating in the  
34 WestConnect 2016–17 planning process and the systems considered in the regional transmission needs  
35 assessment include:

---

<sup>12</sup> Other Public Policy assessment methodologies may be used at the discretion of the PMC.

<sup>13</sup> All parties participating in the model development process, and several other stages of the WestConnect planning process, are required to execute a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with WestConnect. The agreement is available [here](#).

- Arizona Public Service Company
- Basin Electric
- Black Hills Power, Inc.
- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Imperial Irrigation District
- El Paso Electric Company
- NV Energy
- Public Service Company of New Mexico
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- Southwest Transmission Cooperative
- Tucson Electric Power Company
- Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
- Xcel Energy – Public Service Company of Colorado
- Western Area Power Administration
- Salt River Project
- Platte River Power Authority
- Transmission Agency of Northern California

1 WECC models are updated and reviewed by the WestConnect TO Members in order to create accurate  
 2 regional models. WestConnect encourages participation in the model construction process by non-FERC  
 3 jurisdictional TOs and other data owners within or bordering the WestConnect footprint. TOs that are  
 4 not official WestConnect members but actively participate in the regional planning process are listed  
 5 below:

- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

6 WestConnect does not conduct FERC Order 1000 regional transmission needs assessments for TOs that  
 7 are not WestConnect members. The approximate footprint of both member and participating TOs is  
 8 shown in  
 9 Figure 3.

1

**Figure 3: Approximate Footprint of WestConnect Member TOs and Participating TOs**



2

3 The following PMC members from the Independent Transmission Developer Member Sector and Key  
4 Interest Group also participate in the planning effort:

- American Transmission Company
- Southwestern Power Group
- Black Forest Partners
- Western Energy Connection LLC
- TransCanyon
- Xcel Western Transmission Company
- Natural Resources Defense Council

## 5 **Regional Base Transmission Plan**

6 WestConnect creates the regional base transmission plan at the beginning of each planning cycle to  
 7 establish the transmission network topology that is to be reflected in each of the regional planning  
 8 models. The base transmission plan primarily consists of the “planned” incremental transmission  
 9 facilities included by TOs in local transmission plans<sup>14</sup> as well as the regional transmission facilities  
 10 identified in previous regional transmission plans that are not subject to reevaluation. It also includes  
 11 any assumptions member TOs may have made with regard to other incremental regional transmission  
 12 facilities in the development of their local transmission plans. “Conceptual” transmission projects are  
 13 not included in the base transmission plan.

14 The base transmission plan may also include projects under development by independent transmission  
 15 companies (ITCs) and transmission developers in the WestConnect planning region, to the extent there  
 16 is sufficient likelihood associated with these projects to warrant their inclusion in the base transmission

---

<sup>14</sup> Developed in accordance with Order No. 890 local planning processes

1 plan. A description of the criteria used to identify projects for inclusion in the base transmission plan is  
2 in the WestConnect BPM.

3 The base transmission plan uses project information collected via the WestConnect Transmission Plan  
4 Project List (TPPL), which serves as a project repository for TO member and TO participant local  
5 transmission plans as well as ITC projects. The TPPL data collection window for the 2016–17 planning  
6 cycle opened on November 20, 2015, and closed on December 11, 2015. This project repository was  
7 used to establish the base transmission plan for the 2016–17 process.

8 The list of projects and details about the process used to identify the 2016–17 Base Transmission Plan  
9 are summarized in Appendix A and Appendix B. This list will be used to develop the 2026 regional  
10 models.

## 11 **3.2 Scenarios in the Planning Process**

12 WestConnect regional assessments are centered on Base Cases and Scenarios<sup>15</sup>, which when taken  
13 together provide a robust platform that is used to identify the potential for regional transmission needs  
14 and emerging regional opportunities. Base Cases are intended to represent “business as usual,” “current  
15 trends,” or the “expected future.” They are based on TO-supplied forecasts for load, generation, public  
16 policy resources, and transmission plans. Scenarios are intended to complement Base Cases by looking  
17 at alternate but plausible futures. They represent futures with resource, load, and public policy  
18 assumptions that are different in one or more ways than what is assumed in the Base Cases.

19 Proposals for scenarios enter into the planning process through a 30-day open submittal window, which  
20 opens during Quarter 8 of the previous planning cycle. During the open window, stakeholders may  
21 provide proposals for specific scenarios they would like for WestConnect to include in its Study Plan for  
22 the upcoming planning cycle. The PMC and Planning Subcommittee can also develop scenarios for  
23 inclusion in the Study Plan.

24 Once the scenario proposals are received, the PS evaluates the scenarios and makes a recommendation  
25 (documented through the Study Plan) to the PMC on which ones should be evaluated in the study cycle.  
26 The PS may work with individual requestors to clarify the intent of the scenarios. The PS may also  
27 recommend combining scenarios that appear to have common goals, themes, or modeling assumptions.  
28 The PMC also has ultimate authority to determine how to treat regional transmission issues that are  
29 identified in the assessment of scenarios. They will determine whether an issue identified in a  
30 scenario—whether it be reliability, economic, or public-policy based—constitutes a regional  
31 transmission *opportunity*. Since the assessment of a scenario is different than an “expected future” base  
32 case, when WestConnect decides to undertake evaluation of a scenario, the PMC recognizes that such  
33 assessments may provide useful information for future planning cycles, especially if the scenario  
34 appears likely to become an expected future for the region. Also, results from the scenario assessments  
35 may be helpful to stakeholders in the region, because it might help stakeholders see emerging  
36 opportunities in the region, including emerging opportunities for infrastructure (generation,  
37 transmission, or otherwise). Any such regional *opportunities* that might come to light as a result of the  
38 WestConnect scenario assessments are not to be confused with the WestConnect task under Order No.  
39 1000 to identify regional transmission needs and to solicit for proposals to more cost effectively or  
40 efficiently satisfy such needs. In other words, the WestConnect scenario assessments do not obligate TO

---

<sup>15</sup> The term “scenario” may be used differently in other documents, including the cost allocation section of the common tariff.

1 members of WestConnect to any responsibility outside the scope of Order No. 1000.<sup>16</sup> The PMC can  
2 assess the scenario study results and decide if the identified issues warrant additional consideration by  
3 WestConnect.

4 WestConnect also provides the opportunity for stakeholders to provide suggestions that might allow for  
5 more efficient or cost-effective alternatives to the regional plans. These types of suggestions may be  
6 different from the scenarios mentioned above. They may also be different than proposals to meet  
7 identified regional needs, which come later in the planning process (see Section 5.0). These types of  
8 suggestions may be submitted at any time, but have the most potential to contribute to the regional  
9 planning process if they are presented through the scenario submission window. The PMC will consider  
10 such suggestions on a case-by-case basis to determine if any such suggestions warrant analyses, and  
11 how to incorporate any analyses into the regional planning process. Stakeholders submitting such  
12 suggestions are expected to provide evidence as to how their proposals might result in a more efficient  
13 or cost-effective regional plan. As with scenarios, the PMC will determine whether the PS should assess  
14 any suggestions.

## 15 **Scenarios Received for the 2016-17 Study Plan**

16 WestConnect held an open window from December 1 through December 31, 2015. The following  
17 scenarios were received during the open window:

18  
19

**Table 2: Scenarios Received During Open Window**

<b>Requestor</b>	<b>Description/Name</b>
Arizona Utilities Group	Utilities' CPP Compliance
LS Power	High Wyoming Wind
NRDC	Western Wind & Solar CPP Compliance
Sonoran Institute	BLM Large-Scale Solar PV Build-out
SunZia Transmission, LLC	High NM Wind
Western Grid Group	CPP Compliance

20

21 These scenarios were reviewed by the PS on January 19, 2016. A representative for each scenario  
22 request provided a presentation to the PS to summarize the request and answer questions. Following  
23 the meeting, the PS prepared a work plan that would encompass the intent of the specific scenarios, yet  
24 provide an approach that shifted the descriptions towards public policies, and resource mix. The  
25 resulting plan consists of scenarios that are intended to capture the impacts of policy futures as  
26 represented by coal plant retirements, renewable and natural gas resource additions, and increased  
27 energy efficiency. The approach was supported by the individual scenario requestors, and also agreed to

---

<sup>16</sup> For example, regional opportunities that come to light as a result of scenario study work do not trigger the opening of a PMC project submittal window for the solicitation for projects, and they do not give rise to cost allocation obligations.

1 by the Planning Management Committee. The scenarios are described in the following sections that  
2 document the power flow and economic models to be used in this study cycle.

### 3 **3.3 Regional Power Flow Models (PFMs)**

4 The regional power flow models will be developed by the Planning Subcommittee in coordination with  
5 the WestConnect SPGs and WestConnect TO Members during Quarters 2 and 3 of 2016.

#### 6 **Power Flow Model Development Process**

7 WestConnect will review and modify the starting WECC power flow models<sup>17</sup> identified in this study  
8 plan through coordination with SPGs and member/participating TOs. The roles that each SPG will play  
9 are outlined as follows:

- 10 • SWAT – Individual TOs will submit EPC change files to WestConnect for compilation;
- 11 • CCPG – Will coordinate changes with the sub-region and provide the changes to WestConnect;
- 12 • SSPG – Anticipated that individual TOs will submit EPC change files to WestConnect for  
13 compilation.

14 Following the process specific to each SPG, WestConnect will compile the regional power flow models  
15 through a phased approach:

- 16 1. Review and revise WECC power flow base case topology, including transmission lines,  
17 transformers, shunts, caps, inductors, reactive devices and corresponding power flow data.  
18 These changes do not include load magnitudes and resource levels or status.
- 19 2. Review and revise interchange flows and schedules, iterating between any loads and resources  
20 revisions.
- 21 3. Verify enacted public policy representation (and adapt resources as necessary), as described  
22 more thoroughly in Section 4.4.
- 23 4. Provide remedial action schemes (RAS) and contingency definitions based on modeled  
24 topology.<sup>18</sup>

25 The process utilized by the SPGs for model development, including coordinating with the WestConnect  
26 TO Members, independent transmission developers, and other stakeholders in the development of these  
27 cases, will be defined and managed by the individual SPG.

28 The draft regional power flow model will be provided back to the TOs or SPGs for review and validation  
29 of the compiled regional power flow models with the TO members, independent transmission  
30 developers, and other stakeholders per the review timeline provided by the PMC.

31 The participants will also provide the contingency definitions to be used for the regional assessment  
32 (see Section 5 below) in the WECC RAS and Contingency Format (available in GE PSLF and PowerWorld  
33 Simulator). For all of the models listed above, the TOs will review and include applicable:

---

<sup>17</sup> The regional power flow models, including the SPG footprint cases, will be developed in a format accessible by users of either the GE PSLF or Siemens PTI PSS/E power flow applications.

<sup>18</sup> When submitting contingencies, PSLF or PowerWorld users should use the [WECC RAS and Contingency File Format](#) while PSS/E users should use "CON" files or spreadsheet format.

- 1 • **Operating Procedures** – Any special operating procedures required for compliance with NERC  
2 reliability standards will be considered and included in the power flow cases.
- 3 • **Protection Systems** – The impact of protection systems including RAS required for compliance  
4 with NERC reliability standards will be included in the power flow cases.
- 5 • **Control Devices** – Any special control devices required will be included in the power flow cases.

## 6 Power Flow Case Overview

7 The final regional power flow models and contingency definitions will be completed by the end of  
8 Quarter 3 of the 2016–17 planning cycle. The PMC will approve the regional power flow models and  
9 contingency definitions before they are used to assess regional reliability transmission needs.

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16 **Table 3: Power Flow Case Summary**

Case Name	Case ID	Case Description and Scope
<b>2026 Heavy Summer Base Case</b>	WC26-HS	Summer peak load conditions during 1500 to 1700 MDT, with typical flows throughout the Western Interconnection – <i>traditional case build</i>
<b>2026 Light Spring Base Case</b>	WC26-LS	Light load conditions with high wind generation – <i>traditional case build</i>
<b>CPP – WestConnect Utility Plans</b>	WC26-CPP1	Reflect individual WestConnect member utility plans for CPP compliance – <i>export stressed hour from PCM</i>
<b>CPP – Heavy RE/EE Build Out</b>	WC26-CPP3	Additional coal retirements, additional RE/EE, minimal new natural gas generation – <i>export stressed hour from PCM; include transient study for frequency response check</i>

## 17 3.4 Regional Production Cost Model (PCM)

18 The 2026 TEPPC-approved interconnection-wide 10-year production cost model (PCM) “Common Case”  
19 will be reviewed and updated by WestConnect during Quarters 2 and 3 of the 2016–17 planning cycle  
20 consistent with the process described below.

### 21 Production Cost Model Development Process

22 The PS will initiate and coordinate a review of the data and assumptions contained within the TEPPC  
23 2026 Common Case dataset by the WestConnect members, participants, and stakeholders. Specific data  
24 and assumptions to be reviewed by the TO Members will include, but are not limited to:

- 1 • In general, any changes needed to make the PCM data and assumptions consistent with the  
2 Regional PFMs described earlier in the Study Plan;
- 3 • Peak and energy demand forecasts for the planning horizon (including Energy Efficiency (EE)  
4 and Distributed Generation (DG));
- 5 • Incremental resources assumed to be used to meet load and public policy requirements within  
6 the planning horizon;
- 7 • Incremental transmission facilities modeled within the planning horizon (i.e., the PCM topology  
8 must be consistent with the base transmission plan and PF model topology);
- 9 • Branch switching throughout the year;
- 10 • Fuel price assumptions including carbon;
- 11 • Unit operating characteristics; and
- 12 • Load, resource, and transmission bus assignments to balancing authorities.

13 Once the data and assumptions contained within the TEPPC 2026 Common Case have been reviewed by  
14 the TO Members, the Planning Subcommittee will compile any changes submitted by the TO Members to  
15 create the base regional 2026 WestConnect production cost model, which will be called the  
16 WestConnect 2026 Base Case. Once compiled, the Planning Subcommittee will perform a series of initial  
17 benchmarking studies with the goal of validating the output of the WestConnect 2026 Base Case.  
18 Comparisons with historical path flows, typical wind/solar operation, historical generator dispatch, and  
19 forward-looking resource and transmission projections can be performed at the discretion of the  
20 Planning Subcommittee to help vet the model results. The Planning Subcommittee will also develop  
21 sensitivities, as discussed in more detail in Section 4.3

## 22 **Production Cost Model Case Overview**

23 The WestConnect 2026 Base Case will serve as the foundational case upon which additional scenario-  
24 based cases can be constructed. A summary of the production cost model cases slated for compilation  
25 and study in the 2016–17 planning cycle are summarized in Table 4. These cases are described in detail  
26 below.

27  
28 **Table 4: Production Cost Model Case Summary**

Case Name	Case ID	Case Description and Scope
<b>2026 Base Case</b>	WC26-PCM	Business-as-usual case based on WECC 2026 Common Case with additional regional updates from WestConnect members.
<b>High Renewables</b>	WC26-PCM-HR	California 50% RPS with regional resources (Wyoming wind and New Mexico wind) <i>and</i> increase WestConnect state RPS requirement beyond enacted with other resources

Case Name	Case ID	Case Description and Scope
<b>CPP – WestConnect Utility Plans</b>	WC26-PCM-CPP1	Reflect individual WestConnect member utility plans for CPP compliance
<b>CPP – Market-based Compliance</b>	WC26-PCM-CPP2	Model CO2 price in WestConnect to achieve mass-based regional CPP compliance
<b>CPP – Heavy RE/EE Build Out</b>	WC26-PCM-CPP3	Additional coal retirements, additional RE/EE, minimal new natural gas generation

1

2 The production simulation models used to conduct the congestion study will also be made available to  
3 PMC members and other planning regions as well as those gaining appropriate access through NDAs.

## 4 **4.0 Regional Transmission Assessment** 5 **Methodology**

6 Regional transmission performance will be evaluated through the transmission assessment, which is  
7 initiated in Quarter 4 of the first year in the planning cycle. This section describes the studies that will be  
8 conducted using the regional models in order to evaluate reliability and economic performance that  
9 might result in regional transmission needs.

10 The transmission assessments will be performed on both the base case models and any scenarios  
11 included in the study plan. The base cases are meant to reflect the transmission system, generators,  
12 loads, and policies as planned for the ten-year horizon. It represents a “current trend” or “expected  
13 future,” inclusive of expected load and resource forecasts, planned transmission topology, and enacted  
14 public policies. As mentioned in the previous section, the base case economic models also include  
15 expected parameters, such as fuel costs, generating unit operating characteristics, and hourly load  
16 shapes. Regional performance or congestion issues that result from the base case assessments may  
17 constitute a regional reliability, economic, or public policy regional transmission need.

18 Scenarios, on the other hand, model alternate but plausible futures where resource and load  
19 assumptions are different than what is assumed in the base case models. By incorporating scenario  
20 assessments into the regional process, WestConnect stands to benefit by understanding how futures  
21 other than the base case could impact the regional transmission system. The impacts that result from  
22 scenario assessments might result in a regional reliability, economic, or public policy “opportunity.” The  
23 PMC may decide if any opportunities resulting from scenario assessments warrant further exploration  
24 later in the planning process.

## 4.1 Local versus Regional Transmission Issues

For the purposes of the regional transmission needs assessment, a single-system “issue” (i.e., potential need) is an issue, both reliability and congestion related, that impacts only the TO-footprint in which it resides. Single TO issues and non-member issues are not within the scope of the WestConnect regional transmission planning process, and are not considered regional transmission needs. However, for the sake of completeness and study transparency, the study process will include a review of all single-system issues to ensure that in combination, none of the issues are regional in nature and/or co-dependent. Any single-system issues are the responsibility of the affected TO to resolve, if necessary.

Regional needs are generally defined by impacts to more than one Transmission Owner. However, the PMC may determine that in some instances, the multi-TO impacts are local, rather than regional, in nature. In such cases, WestConnect will provide an explanation as to how impacts are classified.

## 4.2 Regional Reliability Assessment

Transmission planners primarily rely on three reliability assessment study methods to investigate a system’s response to a contingency (i.e., disturbance). The timeframe for investigation, measured after the disturbance, is a common and practical way to distinguish the assessments. The three reliability assessment study methods are:

- Transient stability: first 30 seconds post-disturbance,
- Post-transient: system’s condition at three minutes post-disturbance, and
- Steady-state: system’s condition at 20 minutes post-disturbance.

The 2016–17 planning cycle may identify regional reliability needs in the 10-year planning horizon. An assessment of the WestConnect regional power flow cases will be conducted to ensure the WestConnect planning region as a whole is in compliance with applicable reliability standards and criteria, in particular the steady state requirements of the NERC TPL-001-4 Table 1<sup>19</sup> with the initial condition as system normal (P1, P2, P4, P5, and P7). When evaluating base case models, violations of NERC TPL-001-4 reliability standards creating reliability issues that the PMC determines to be regional in nature will be identified as a regional reliability need. If such regional needs are identified, then potential solutions will be solicited by the PMC for evaluation and potential inclusion into the Regional Transmission Plan. By definition, regional reliability needs are identified by reliability issues that impact more than one TO Member system. Specifically, in the event a simulated outage produces one or more NERC TPL violations in more than one member TO system, those violations may result in the identification of a regional reliability-driven transmission need.

When scenario-based models are being evaluated, the same violations of reliability standards may be identified as regional reliability issues. However, these issues may result in potential regional opportunities rather than needs. The PMC may determine if the opportunities warrant additional exploration and whether the PS should further evaluate those reliability opportunities later in the planning process.

---

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.nerc.com/files/TPL-001-4.pdf>

## 1 **Power Flow Contingency Analysis Process**

2 The reliability assessment will include power flow contingency analyses based on the NERC reliability  
3 standards noted above for all power flow areas modeled within the WestConnect planning footprint. The  
4 assessment will evaluate system performance with:

- 5 • No contingencies under normal initial system condition (i.e., “P0”);
- 6 • Single contingencies under normal initial system conditions (i.e., “P1, P2”);
- 7 • If participants provide justification as to how multiple contingencies (i.e., “P4, P5, P7”) might  
8 result in regional issues, they may provide those contingencies to the PS for consideration.

9  
10 The assessment will evaluate contingencies of facilities above 200 kV. However, if a participant provides  
11 justification as to why lower voltage contingencies might impact the system in a regional manner, the PS  
12 may decide to include those contingencies. Transmission elements of 100 kV and above will be  
13 monitored for performance, unless participants specify lower voltage elements to include in the monitor  
14 list. In conducting the assessment, modeled emergency ratings and voltages will be treated as the  
15 contingency ratings and voltages. A list of contingencies to be studied will be developed by the  
16 TOs/SPGs and provided to the PMC concurrent with the final review of the base cases. The PS along with  
17 the PMC can add to the list if needed.

18 If a single-system reliability violation (a NERC Transmission Planning (TPL) violation) is identified as  
19 part of the reliability assessment, the violation will be referred back to the appropriate TO for  
20 resolution. The affected TO will then have an opportunity to identify mitigation for the violation, and  
21 new data will be accepted or the violation will stay. Upon approval by the PMC, the modeling for the  
22 mitigation will then be incorporated back into the regional power flow model. Single-system reliability  
23 violations usually do not cause a regional reliability-driven transmission need. In the event a simulated  
24 outage produces NERC TPL violations in more than one TO Member’s system, that violation will first be  
25 referred to the affected TOs and discussed with the PS to determine if the violation is local in nature.  
26 However, issues that impact more than one TO may result in the identification of a regional reliability-  
27 driven transmission need.

28 With the posting of the reliability needs, a project solution submittal window will open. Upon closure of  
29 the submittal window, WestConnect will initiate an evaluation of the benefits and costs of proposed  
30 solutions to identify if any is a more efficient or cost-effective regional solution.

31 If no project solutions are submitted, WestConnect will seek to develop solutions to reliability needs.  
32 The amount of technical planning rigor dedicated to seeking a WestConnect-developed regional solution  
33 will be informed by planning discussions held at the PS and PMC. These discussions and decisions made  
34 in investigating potential regional solutions proposed by WestConnect (in the absence of proposed  
35 solutions) will be documented in the Regional Plan.

## 36 **4.3 Regional Economic Assessment**

37 In order to evaluate the potential for regional economic needs in the WestConnect planning footprint,  
38 WestConnect conducts a process in which potentially congested elements are identified through  
39 forward-looking production cost modeling. Using results from base case model runs and other relevant  
40 sensitivities and scenarios, the Planning Subcommittee will review metrics such as congestion frequency  
41 (i.e., number of hours) and congestion cost (i.e., cost of redispatch of more expensive generation) for

1 transmission elements greater than 100 kV and WECC transfer paths (or other defined interfaces in the  
2 WestConnect footprint).

3 Transmission elements with significant congestion are identified and verified through Planning  
4 Subcommittee review, historical benchmarking, and follow-up study. Given the regional focus of the  
5 WestConnect process, the Planning Subcommittee will limit their analysis to:

- 6 • Transmission elements (or paths/interfaces) between multiple WestConnect member TOs;
- 7 • Transmission elements (or paths/interfaces) owned by multiple WestConnect member TOs; and
- 8 • Congestion occurring within the footprint of multiple TOs that has potential to be addressed by  
9 a regional transmission project or NTA.<sup>20</sup>

10 The process to assess congestion will include a general vetting of significantly congested elements. That  
11 process is also intended to allow the PS to make a determination as to whether congestion issues are  
12 regional in nature. After this vetting process, the PS will produce a list of the significantly congested  
13 elements that were identified in the base case. The PMC may further evaluate that list of congested  
14 elements, and determine which should constitute regional economic needs. The objective is to arrive at a  
15 set of congested elements that warrant being tested for the economic potential for a regional project  
16 solution, recognizing that the presence of congestion does not always equate to a regional need for  
17 congestion relief at a particular location. The final list of elements along with congestion results will be  
18 posted to the WestConnect website

19 With the posting of the economic transmission needs, a project solution submittal window will open.  
20 Upon closure of the submittal window, WestConnect will initiate an evaluation of the benefits and costs  
21 of proposed solutions to identify if any is a more efficient or cost-effective regional solution. At a  
22 minimum, benefits will include production cost savings and the value of decreased reserve sharing  
23 requirements. WestConnect will be further developing the framework for economic project evaluations  
24 during the 2016–17 planning cycle.

25 If no project solutions are submitted, WestConnect will seek to develop solutions to regional economic  
26 needs, prioritizing those elements that present severe congestion and/or are most proximate in time so  
27 as to identify those warranting evaluation in the current planning cycle. The amount of technical  
28 planning rigor dedicated to seeking a WestConnect-developed regional solution will be informed by  
29 planning discussions held at the PS and PMC. These discussions and decisions made in investigating  
30 potential regional solutions proposed by WestConnect (in the absence of proposed solutions) will be  
31 documented in the Regional Plan.

32 For scenarios (versus base cases), the PS will perform similar economic assessments, but regional  
33 congestion issues may be classified as regional economic opportunities rather than regional needs. The  
34 PMC may determine if the opportunities warrant further exploration and whether PS should further  
35 evaluate those economic opportunities later in the planning process.

## 36 **Sensitivities**

37 WestConnect also intends to conduct sensitivity studies on the base case economic model (2026 Base  
38 Case) to better understand whether regional transmission congestion may be impacted by adjusting  
39 certain parameters within the base models. Sensitivity analysis is different from scenario evaluation in

---

<sup>20</sup> Congestion within a single TO's footprint (and not reasonably related or tied to other TO footprints) is out of scope of the regional planning effort and is alternatively subject to Order 890 economic planning requirements.

1 that the sensitivities are meant to make relatively minor adjustments that would still remain within the  
2 expected future framework of the base models. This sensitivity analysis may include variables such as:

- 3 • Load forecast;
- 4 • Location of new generation and/or retirement;
- 5 • Hydro conditions (e.g., wet vs. dry);
- 6 • Natural gas prices;
- 7 • Emissions cost (e.g., CO<sub>2</sub>); and
- 8 • Other modeling parameters.

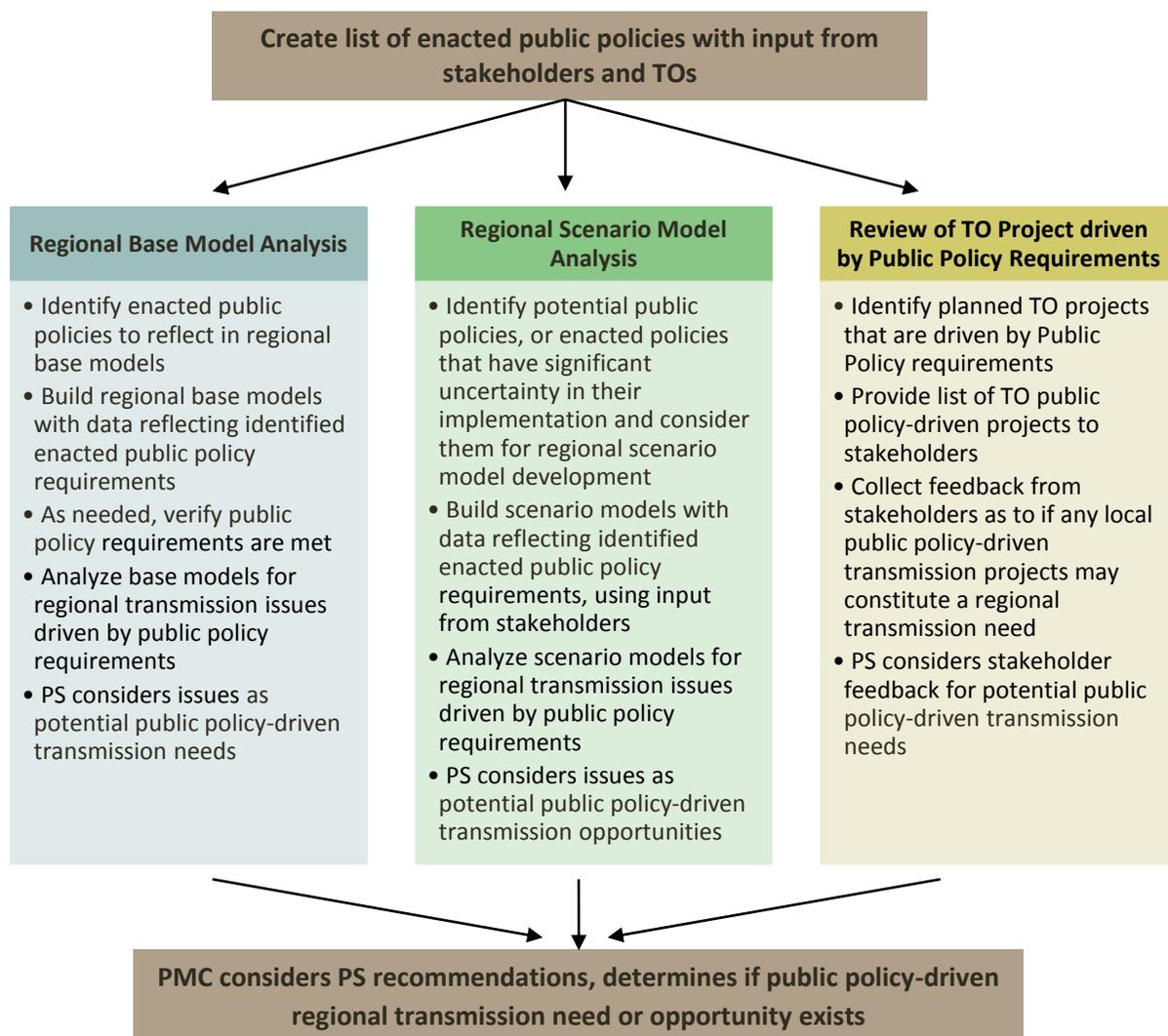
9 By adjusting individual parameters, this assessment will help WestConnect understand how sensitive  
10 the Base Transmission Plan is to variables, while also rounding out the 2026 Base Case congestion  
11 assessment. The PS will make recommendations to the PMC regarding how sensitivity analysis will be  
12 incorporated into the study process.

## 13 **4.4 Regional Public Policy Assessment**

14 The WestConnect Regional Planning Process is intended to identify regional needs and the more  
15 efficient or cost-effective solutions to satisfy those needs. Enacted public policy (e.g., but not limited to,  
16 Renewable Portfolio Standards, energy efficiency/demand side management and distributed generation  
17 standards, and IRPs) is considered in the regional planning process. Non-enacted or proposed public  
18 policies may be considered as part of the scenario planning process. Enacted public policies are  
19 considered early in the planning process and are incorporated into the base models through the roll-up  
20 of local TO plans and their associated load, resource, and transmission assumptions. The PS has  
21 discretion to identify which enacted policies, if any, should be verified through the regional process to  
22 ensure they are properly represented in the regional base models. Enacted public policies that are  
23 subject to significant uncertainty within the planning horizon are also considered. These types of public  
24 policies may be studied through the development of regional scenario models. Stakeholders, through  
25 their participation in the regional planning process, will have the opportunity to provide feedback to  
26 WestConnect as it evaluates public policy-driven transmission issues and determines what issues may  
27 constitute regional transmission needs or opportunities. The PMC, which is charged with identifying  
28 regional public policy-transmission needs for the WestConnect region, will consider a recommendation  
29 from the Planning Subcommittee for each of the public policy analyses described above. The regional  
30 public policy-driven transmission need identification process is outlined below in Figure 4.

31

**Figure 4: Regional Public Policy Process**



WestConnect will begin the evaluation of regional transmission needs driven by public policy requirements by first identifying a list of enacted public policies that impact local TO plans in the WestConnect planning region. This list will be developed by the Planning Subcommittee in public meetings, and will be made available on the WestConnect website. Once the list is developed, the Planning Subcommittee, with input from stakeholders, will divide the list into three categories to consider which enacted public policies (1) will be reflected in the regional base model analysis; (2) are subject to regional scenario model analysis given significant uncertainty in their implementation; or (3) are an enacted public policy but due to uncertainty, or modeling or data constraints, does not lend itself to technical modeling assessments in the current planning cycle.

For policies that fall into category (1), the regional base models, including both power flow and production cost, will reflect the enacted public policies identified through the process described above. The data to reflect the public policies will be provided by TOs as it is assumed that enacted public policies are already reflected in TO's transmission plans. In some instances, the Planning Subcommittee may choose to verify (through various spreadsheet based analyses) that the appropriate load, resources,

1 or transmission are included in the models. Once the models are compiled, reviewed, and ultimately  
2 approved by the PMC, the Planning Subcommittee will perform economic and reliability assessments (as  
3 described in Section 4.0) using the regional base models to determine if there are any regional  
4 transmission issues. The Planning Subcommittee will seek to determine if those issues are related to  
5 enacted public policy and therefore may constitute a public policy-driven transmission need. The details  
6 of this analytical process are described in Section 4.2 for the reliability assessment and in Section 4.3 for  
7 the economic assessment.

8 Public policies that fall under category (2) are *enacted* yet have uncertain implementations. These will  
9 be addressed through scenario analysis in the WestConnect process. The regional base case models are  
10 intended to represent the “expected” future, which naturally should include all enacted public policies.  
11 However, in the event an enacted public policy may result in a wide range of alternative implementation  
12 plans (and correspondingly, a wide range of transmission impacts) scenario analysis allows  
13 WestConnect to plan for and understand these various alternative futures, recognizing that at some  
14 point the enacted public policy may gain enough certainty in its implementation such that a single set of  
15 assumptions can be included in the base regional models. The scenario models that reflect enacted but  
16 uncertain public policies will be evaluated using regional scenario models. These may be suggested by  
17 stakeholders or developed by the Planning Subcommittee. Regional base case models may be used as a  
18 starting point to develop the scenario models. Depending on the public policy being considered,  
19 WestConnect may have to perform analyses in order to determine what changes should be made to the  
20 base load, resource, and potentially transmission assumptions to properly reflect the uncertainty in the  
21 enacted public policy. The models that are to be built during the 2016–17 cycle for regional public policy  
22 scenario analysis are described in Section 3.3 and Section 3.4. Notably, the PMC is not obligated to  
23 identify a public policy-driven regional transmission need based on results from the regional scenario  
24 model analysis. However, the PMC may determine if the opportunities warrant further exploration and  
25 whether PS should further evaluate those economic opportunities later in the planning process. For  
26 example, the Clean Power Plan is an enacted public policy that has significant uncertainty associated  
27 with its implementation. If modeling of the policy identifies an economic or reliability issue, the PMC can  
28 consider how likely the modeled future is. If it is a future that models Clean Power Plan implementation  
29 in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of states, utilities, and stakeholders, then that  
30 scenario may be more likely to result in a public-policy driven regional transmission need, compared to  
31 a scenario that is representative of a single party’s outlook on how the Clean Power Plan might unfold.

32 The third component of the WestConnect regional public policy planning process allows for the Planning  
33 Subcommittee in consultation with stakeholders to review local (TO) public policy-driven transmission  
34 projects and make suggestions as to whether the TO’s project may constitute a public policy-driven  
35 regional transmission need. As a part of its effort to “roll-up” local transmission plans to compile the  
36 regional base transmission plan, WestConnect will provide stakeholders with a list of public policy-  
37 driven transmission projects that are included in TOs’ local plans. After reviewing this information,  
38 stakeholders are invited to make a recommendation to the Planning Subcommittee whether any local  
39 public policy-driven transmission projects may suggest consideration/identification of a regional  
40 transmission need. The Planning Subcommittee will consider the suggestion, and make a  
41 recommendation to the PMC as to whether it should be identified as a regional public policy-driven  
42 transmission need.

43 If any regional public policy needs are identified, a project solution submittal window will open. Upon  
44 closure of the submittal window, WestConnect will initiate an evaluation of the proposed transmission  
45 and NTAs to identify if any is a more efficient or cost-effective regional solution. If no solutions are  
46 submitted, WestConnect will seek to develop solutions to regional public policy needs.

## 4.5 Identifying Regional Transmission Needs

After the PS completes the regional transmission assessments (as described in Sections 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4) for the studies included in the scope of this study plan, the PS will identify a list of transmission issues resulting from the studies, and make a recommendation to the PMC as to which, if any, regional issues should constitute economic, reliability, or public policy transmission needs or opportunities. The process for identifying those regional transmission needs for which a regional transmission solution or solutions is sought and evaluated shall utilize various communication channels with stakeholders, including open PMC and PS meetings, stakeholder meetings, and the regional transmission needs assessment report (which will also allow for stakeholder comment and input). This report will be delivered to the PMC for review and approval, and it will contain the PS's recommendation on regional transmission needs for the study cycle. The regional transmission needs will be finalized pending the PMC's approval of the report. Regional opportunities will be handled in a similar matter, but note that mandatory project submittal windows and the potential for cost allocation are not considered for opportunities driven by scenario analysis.

In the event that no regional transmission needs are identified, the PMC will not collect transmission or non-transmission alternatives for evaluation (as there will be no regional transmission needs to evaluate the alternatives against). The scenario study work, and any regional opportunities it might bring to light, may warrant further exploration and evaluation at a later point in the planning process.

## 5.0 Alternatives to Meet Regional Needs

There will be an open submission period for project (or NTA) proposals to address identified regional transmission needs. The submission period will be noticed on the WestConnect website, and will also be distributed via email to WestConnect stakeholders. The submission period will last for no less than thirty days and will end by the fifth quarter of the WestConnect planning cycle. Proposals submitted outside of that window will not be considered. Any active member<sup>21</sup> in good standing within one of the five PMC membership sectors may submit projects to meet an identified regional need to be considered for selection in the Regional Plan. Furthermore, only those projects that meet the qualification criteria outlined in the WestConnect Regional Planning Process BPM for valid project submittals will be evaluated in the regional planning process.

More details on the specifics of the submittal window will be made available upon the identification of regional needs. During the window, project developers may submit regional transmission project solutions (and non-transmission alternatives). These submittals will be accompanied by a \$25,000 study deposit.

The categories of projects that may be submitted to WestConnect include:

- Transmission projects not seeking cost allocation
- Transmission projects seeking cost allocation

---

<sup>21</sup> "Active member" is defined in Section 6.2 of the WestConnect Planning Participation Agreement.

- 1 • Non-transmission alternatives<sup>22</sup>

2 Entities submitting projects must use the WestConnect Project Submittal Form and provide as much  
3 information as possible in order to allow WestConnect to model the project accurately. The Project  
4 Submittal Form for alternatives to meet regional needs is included as Appendix C.

5 In the event no project is submitted for an identified regional need during the project submittal window,  
6 the PMC must seek to develop a transmission project or NTA to resolve the identified regional need. The  
7 PMC may not be able to identify any feasible solutions in any given transmission planning cycle, but it  
8 will undertake this obligation to seek a resolution.

## 9 **6.0 Evaluation and Selection of Regional** 10 **Alternatives**

11 During Quarters 5, 6 and 7 of the 2016–17 planning cycle, the models and studies used to identify  
12 regional transmission needs will be used to determine whether the proposed projects (transmission  
13 projects and NTAs) resolve the identified needs. In the case of regional projects submitted as more  
14 efficient or cost-effective solutions to identified regional transmission needs, the models and studies  
15 used to identify the regional transmission needs will be used to ensure that the reliability of the system  
16 is maintained and the proposed project does not create any new regional reliability, economic, or public  
17 policy needs. Projects that resolve a reliability criteria violation (a NERC TPL violation) identified as a  
18 regional reliability need will be deemed to have met that regional reliability need. Similarly, projects that  
19 are shown to reduce congestion and variable production cost within the WestConnect planning region  
20 will be deemed to have met that regional economic need. Projects that enable enacted public policy  
21 requirements to be satisfied will be deemed to have met the regional transmission need driven by a  
22 public policy requirement. Projects that meet an identified regional transmission need and are seeking  
23 cost allocation will be reviewed to determine their eligibility to seek cost allocation as more fully  
24 described in Section 7.0. In the event no projects have been proposed to meet an identified regional  
25 transmission need, the PMC will seek to develop an appropriate proposal and describe that project in  
26 the Regional Plan, and it will not be subject to cost allocation.

### 27 **More Efficient or Cost-Effective Regional Solutions**

28 Regional projects determined to be capable of meeting an identified regional need will be evaluated and  
29 selected from among competing solutions to determine the preferred solution or combination of  
30 solutions to satisfy the regional transmission needs. The solution alternatives will be evaluated on a  
31 comparable basis according to the following criteria as outlined in the WestConnect Jurisdictional TOs'  
32 Tariffs: (1) ability to fulfill the identified need practically; (2) ability to meet applicable reliability  
33 criteria or NERC Transmission Planning Standards issues; (3) technical, operational, and financial  
34 feasibility; (4) operational benefits/constraints or issues<sup>23</sup>; (5) cost-effectiveness over the time frame of  
35 the study or the life of the facilities, as appropriate (including adjustments, as necessary, for operational

---

<sup>22</sup> Remedial Action Schemes can be submitted for evaluation as an alternative to the construction of additional transmission facilities.

<sup>23</sup> In evaluating benefits and costs, the PMC may assess operational impacts through the use of tools other than the transient stability, post-transient and/or steady-state studies performed by the PMC during the needs identification phase, as necessary and appropriate under the circumstances.

1 benefits/constraints or issues, including dependability); (6) where applicable, consistency with public  
2 policy requirements or regulatory requirements., including cost recovery through regulated rates.

## 3 **7.0 Regional Cost Allocation**

4 Projects submitted to WestConnect seeking regional cost allocation must first be determined by the PMC  
5 to be a more efficient or cost-effective solution to one or more regional transmission needs. Projects  
6 submitted to the PMC seeking regional cost allocation that have been selected as the more efficient or  
7 cost-effective alternatives to the identified regional needs will be reviewed to determine their eligibility  
8 to obtain cost allocation. All projects deemed eligible to seek cost allocation will subsequently go  
9 through the cost allocation process. If a project cannot pass one cost allocation threshold alone  
10 (reliability, economic, or public policy), the sum of the benefits from each benefit category may be  
11 considered.

12 Those projects seeking cost allocation that are selected into the regional plan as a more efficient or cost-  
13 effective alternative that also pass the applicable benefits/costs thresholds will be selected into the  
14 regional plan for the purposes of cost allocation. Cost allocation will be performed pursuant to the cost  
15 allocation methodologies described in tariffs and the WestConnect Regional Planning Process BPM.

16 Cost allocation for economic projects will be based on the calculation of economic benefits that each  
17 Transmission Owner will receive. Cost allocation for economic projects shall include sensitivity<sup>24</sup>  
18 analyses to ensure that benefits will actually be received by beneficiaries with relative certainty.  
19 Projects for which benefits and beneficiaries are highly uncertain and vary beyond reasonable  
20 parameters based on assumptions about future conditions will not be selected for cost allocation.

## 21 **8.0 Issuance of a Regional Study Plan**

22 By the end of Quarter 8 of the 2016–17 planning cycle, after stakeholder review and input, the PMC will  
23 vote to approve the 2016–17 WestConnect Regional Transmission Plan (Regional Plan). The Regional  
24 Plan will describe the entire process used to identify needs and opportunities, and document why  
25 projects were either included or not included in the Regional Plan. Projects that are identified in the  
26 WestConnect Regional Plan will include:

- 27 • The base transmission plan;
- 28 • Transmission facilities and NTAs selected as the more efficient or cost-effective regional  
29 solutions to the identified regional reliability, economic, and public policy needs; and
- 30 • Transmission facilities selected as the more efficient or cost-effective regional solutions to the  
31 identified regional needs and that have been selected for the purposes of cost allocation.<sup>25</sup>

32

---

<sup>24</sup> Tariffs refer to this “sensitivity” analysis as a “scenario” analysis.

<sup>25</sup> For any project selected in the Regional Plan for purposes of cost allocation, the PMC will select a transmission developer from among all Eligible Developers as the one who may use the regional cost allocation, as determined from the Transmission Developer Qualification Process. This developer selection process will occur following the identification of projects selected in the Regional Plan for purposes of cost allocation.

# 1 **Appendix A – Base Transmission Plan Process**

2 To identify TO projects for inclusion in the 2026 base transmission plan, the Planning Subcommittee  
3 reviewed the transmission project lists submitted to WestConnect by the TO members and participants  
4 via the TPPL, inclusive of the project status (e.g., planned, conceptual). All TO projects designated with a  
5 “planned” project status are included in the base transmission plan. As defined by WestConnect, planned  
6 facilities include projects that have a sponsor, have been incorporated in an entity’s regulatory filings,  
7 have an agreement committing entities to participate and construct, or for which permitting has been or  
8 will be sought. Individual members and participants reviewed the TPPL project lists and provided any  
9 necessary updates with regard to the project status.

10 The Planning Subcommittee also met to review the list of non-incumbent projects submitted via the  
11 TPPL to see if any of those projects met the threshold identified by the PMC for inclusion in the base  
12 transmission plan. These meetings were open to the public and noticed accordingly. Upon reviewing the  
13 project information submitted by the project sponsors, the Planning Subcommittee did not identify any  
14 non-incumbent projects that warranted inclusion in the base transmission plan.

## 15 **CAISO Projects**

16 The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and WestConnect transmission planning  
17 footprints have strong electrical and operational ties, requiring close coordination of planning  
18 assumptions and information. Based on member and participant feedback, the WestConnect Planning  
19 Subcommittee considered for inclusion in the regional models two CAISO transmission projects that  
20 were recently approved by the CAISO Board of Directors. These projects are:

- 21 • Delaney – Colorado River 500 kV, estimated in-service date 2020, and
- 22 • Harry Allen – Eldorado 500 kV, estimated in-service date 2020.

23 Since both projects have been approved by the CAISO Board of Directors, they are currently included in  
24 CAISO 10-year planning studies. To align the WestConnect models with that of the CAISO, the projects  
25 will also be included in the WestConnect models.<sup>26</sup>

---

<sup>26</sup> *The Planning Subcommittee did not make any judgment with regard to any interregional aspects of these two projects. They were not submitted for the purposes of cost allocation.*

## Appendix B – Base Transmission Plan (2016–2026 Projects)

The tables below have the planned and conceptual projects which were submitted into the WestConnect TPPL. The planned projects are slated for inclusion in the Base Transmission Plan whereas the conceptual projects will not be included in the models.

### CCPG – Planned

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
Black Hills Energy	Overton 115 kV Substation	Planned	115 kV
Black Hills Energy	Lajunta 115kV Substation	Planned	115 kV
Black Hills Energy	Baculite Mesa – Overton 115 kV Line Rebuild	Planned	115 kV
Black Hills Energy	Portland 115/69kV Transformer Replacement	Planned	115 kV
Black Hills Power	Second 230/69kV Yellow Creek Transformer	Planned	230 kV
Black Hills Power	South Rapid City – Westhill 230kV Rebuild	Planned	230 kV
Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power	Swan Ranch 115 kV Substation	Planned	115 kV
Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power	King Ranch 115kV Substation	Planned	115 kV
Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power	East Business Park – Cheyenne Prairie 115kV Line Reconductor	Planned	115 kV
Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power	Archer – Cheyenne Prairie 115kV Reconductor	Planned	115 kV
Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power	North Range – Swan Ranch 115kV Reconductor	Planned	115 kV
Platte River Power Authority	Boyd 230/115kV Substation Expansion	Planned	230 kV
Platte River Power Authority	Fort Collins Northeast 115/13.8kV Substation	Planned	115 kV
Platte River Power Authority	Timberline 230/115kV Transformer T3 Replacement	Planned	230 kV
Platte River Power Authority	Laporte 230kV Expansion	Planned	230 kV
Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy	Pawnee – Daniels Park 345 kV Transmission Project	Planned	345 kV
Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy	Rifle – Parachute 230 kV Line #2	Planned	230 kV

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Development Status</b>	<b>Voltage</b>
<b>Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy</b>	Happy Canyon Substation	Planned	115 kV
<b>Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy</b>	Thornton Substation	Planned	115 kV
<b>Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy</b>	Avery Substation	Planned	230 kV
<b>Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy</b>	Moon Gulch 230/13.8 kV, 50 MVA Distribution Substation	Planned	230 kV
<b>Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy</b>	Gilman – Avon 115 kV Transmission Line and Cap Bank	Planned	115 kV
<b>Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy</b>	Weld to Rosedale 230 kV Line	Planned	230 kV
<b>Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy</b>	Ault – Cloverly 115 kV Transmission Project	Planned	115 kV
<b>Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy</b>	Milton – Rosedale 230 kV Transmission Line	Planned	230 kV
<b>Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association</b>	Big Sandy – Calhan 230 kV Project	Planned	230 kV
<b>Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association</b>	Falcon – Midway 115 kV Line Uprate Project	Planned	115 kV
<b>Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association</b>	La Junta (TS) 2nd 115/69kV, 42 MVA XFMR	Planned	115 kV
<b>Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association</b>	Badwater – Sawmill Creek 230 kV Line (Badwater - DJ 230 kV Line)	Planned	230 kV
<b>Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association</b>	Lost Canyon – Main Switch 115 kV Line	Planned	115 kV
<b>Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association</b>	San Luis Valley – Poncha 230 kV Line #2	Planned	230 kV
<b>Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association</b>	Wind River 115kV Reliability Upgrade	Planned	115 kV

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
Western Area Power Administration – RMR	Granby – Windy Gap	Planned	138 kV
Western Area Power Administration – RMR	Estes – Flatiron 115-kV rebuild	Planned	115 kV
Western Area Power Administration – RMR	Badwater Reactor	Planned	Below 115 kV
Western Area Power Administration – RMR	Ault 345/230 kV XFMR Replacement	Planned	345 kV
Western Area Power Administration – RMR	Alliance – Dunlap 115 kV Rebuild	Planned	115 kV

1  
2

## CCPG – Conceptual

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
Black Hills Energy	West Station – West Cañon 115kV	Conceptual	115 kV
Black Hills Energy	Desert Cove – Fountain Valley – MidwayBR 115kV Line Rebuild	Conceptual	115 kV
Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power	Cheyenne Prairie – South Cheyenne 115kV Double Circuit	Conceptual	115 kV
Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy	Lamar – Vilas 230kV Transmission Project	Conceptual	230 kV
Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy	Bluestone Substation	Conceptual	230 kV
Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy	Parachute – Cameo 230 kV Transmission Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy	Weld County Expansion Project	Conceptual	230 kV
Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy	Wilson Substation	Conceptual	115 kV
Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy	Glenwood – Rifle 115 kV Upgrade	Conceptual	115 kV
Public Service Company of Colorado/ Xcel Energy	Wheeler – Wolf Ranch 230 kV Transmission Project	Conceptual	230 kV

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	Lamar – Front Range Project	Conceptual	345 kV
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	Boone – Walsenburg 230 kV Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	Boone – Lamar 230 kV Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Western Area Power Administration – RMR	Basin Cap Bank	Conceptual	115 kV
Western Area Power Administration – RMR	Powell Cap Bank	Conceptual	115 kV

1

2 **SSPG – Planned**

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
NV Energy	California – Bordertown 120kV Line	Planned	115 kV
NV Energy	Carlin Trend 120 kV Separation Scheme (RAS) to mitigate thermal overloading	Planned	345 kV
NV Energy	MYS (My Switch)	Planned	138 kV
Western Area Power Administration – SNR	Reconductor Keswick – Airport – Cottonwood 230 kV Lines	Planned	230 kV
Western Area Power Administration – SNR	Reconductor Olinda – Cottonwood #1 & #2 230 kV Lines	Planned	230 kV
Western Area Power Administration – SNR	Install 230 kV Reactive Voltage Support	Planned	230 kV
Western Area Power Administration – SNR	Elverta Line Swap	Planned	230 kV

3

4 **SWAT – Planned**

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
Arizona Public Service	North Gila – Orchard 230kV Line	Planned	230 kV
Arizona Public Service	Morgan – Sun Valley 230kV Line	Planned	230 kV

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Development Status</b>	<b>Voltage</b>
Arizona Public Service	Morgan – Sun Valley 500kV Line	Planned	500 kV AC
Arizona Public Service	Ocotillo 230kV Generation Interconnections	Planned	230 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Wrangler – Sparks Transmission Line Reconductor	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Leo Substation Upgrade from 69 kV to 115 kV	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	LE1 (Organ) Substation	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	LE1 (Organ) – Jornada Transmission Line	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Leo – Dyer (6500) Transmission Line Upgrade to 115 kV	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Leo – Milagro (7800) Transmission Line Upgrade to 115 kV	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	NW2 (Verde) Substation 30 MVA Transformer	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Global Reach Substation Transformer (T2)	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Rio Bosque Substation Transformer (T2)	Planned	Below 115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Patriot Substation Transformer (T2)	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Felipe 69 kV Substation Capacitor Bank	Planned	Below 115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Afton North Autotransformer	Planned	345 kV
El Paso Electric Company	NW3 (Transmountain) Substation Transformer	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Afton North – Airport Transmission Line	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Airport – Jornada Transmission Line	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Global Reach Substation Capacitor Bank	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Picante Substation Capacitor Bank	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Uvas Substation 12 MVA Transformer	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Pipeline Substation 33.6 MVA Transformer	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Leasburg Substation 33.6 MVA Transformer	Planned	115 kV
El Paso Electric Company	Sol – Vista Transmission Line Upgrade	Planned	115 kV

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Development Status</b>	<b>Voltage</b>
<b>El Paso Electric Company</b>	Lane – Pendale – Copper (16900) 69 kV Line Rebuild & Reconductor	Planned	Below 115 kV
<b>El Paso Electric Company</b>	Rio Grande-Sunset (5600) 69 kV Line Reconductor	Planned	Below 115 kV
<b>El Paso Electric Company</b>	Rio Grande – Asarco Tap (5500) 69 kV Line Reconductor	Planned	Below 115 kV
<b>El Paso Electric Company</b>	East-side Loop Expansion Phase I	Planned	115 kV
<b>El Paso Electric Company</b>	East-side Loop Expansion Phase I	Planned	115 kV
<b>El Paso Electric Company</b>	East-side Loop Expansion Phase 2	Planned	115 kV
<b>El Paso Electric Company</b>	Move Sparks 115/69 kV Autotransformer to Felipe Substation	Planned	115 kV
<b>El Paso Electric Company</b>	Sparks to Felipe 69 kV to 115 kV Line Upgrade	Planned	115 kV
<b>Imperial Irrigation District</b>	Niland Substation Transformer Replacement	Planned	161 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Reconductor Haskell Canyon – Rinaldi 230 kV Rinaldi Line 1	Planned	230 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	New Scattergood-Olympic 230 kV Cable A	Planned	230 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Reconductor Barren Ridge – Haskell Canyon 230 kV Line 1	Planned	230 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Castaic-Haskell Canyon 230 kV Line 3	Planned	230 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Upgrade Haskell Canyon – Sylmar 230 kV Line1	Planned	230 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Upgrade Haskell Canyon – Olive 230 kV Line	Planned	230 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Upgrade Olive – North Ridge 230 kV Line	Planned	230 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Re-conductor Valley – Rinaldi 230 kV Lines 1&2	Planned	230 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Re-conductor Valley – Toluca 230 kV Lines 1&2	Planned	230 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Victorville 500/287 kV Autotransformer Installation	Planned	500 kV AC
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Upgrade Toluca 500/230 kV Bank H	Planned	500 kV AC
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Upgrade Rinaldi 230 kV CBs	Planned	230 kV
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	New Haskell Canyon – Sylmar 230 kV Line	Planned	230 kV

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Development Status</b>	<b>Voltage</b>
<b>Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</b>	Intermountain Replacement at 1200 MW	Planned	Below 115 kV
<b>Public Service Company of New Mexico</b>	Alamogordo Voltage Support Phase II	Planned	115 kV
<b>Public Service Company of New Mexico</b>	Second Yah-Ta-Hey 345/115 kV Transformer	Planned	345 kV
<b>Public Service Company of New Mexico</b>	Guadalupe SVC	Planned	345 kV
<b>Public Service Company of New Mexico</b>	Cabazon Switching Station	Planned	345 kV
<b>Salt River Project</b>	Abel – Pfister – Ball 230kV (formerly RS12-RS-24-Abel and Abel – Moody)	Planned	230 kV
<b>Salt River Project</b>	Rogers – Santan 230kV	Planned	230 kV
<b>Salt River Project</b>	Schrader – RS28 230kV Transmission Line	Planned	230 kV
<b>Salt River Project</b>	RS28 Substation	Planned	230 kV
<b>Salt River Project</b>	Hassayampa – Pinal West #1 Jojoba Line Loop	Planned	500 kV AC
<b>Salt River Project</b>	Browning – Corbell 230kV Line Reconfiguration	Planned	230 kV
<b>Southwest Transmission Cooperative</b>	Butterfield Substation Capacitor Bank	Planned	230 kV
<b>Southwest Transmission Cooperative</b>	San Rafael Substation Capacitor Bank	Planned	230 kV
<b>Southwest Transmission Cooperative</b>	Bicknell Substation Capacitor Bank	Planned	115 kV
<b>Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association</b>	NENM Reliability Improvement	Planned	115 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Kino 138/13.8 kV Substation	Planned	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Marana 138/13.8 kV Substation	Planned	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Corona 138/13.8 kV Substation	Planned	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Craycroft Barril 138/13.8 kV Substation	Planned	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Irvington – Tucson 138 kV Transmission Line Circuit 2	Planned	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Harrison 138/13.8 kV Substation	Planned	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Hartt 138/13.8 kV Substation	Planned	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Marana 138kV Transmission Line	Planned	138 kV

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
Tucson Electric Power	Orange Grove 138/13.8 kV Substation	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Rosemont 138kV Line	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Point of Interconnection 138kV Switchyard (Rosemont)	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Tortolita 500 kV Switchyard	Planned	500 kV AC
Tucson Electric Power	Naranja 138/13.8 kV Substation	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Rancho Vistoso to La Canada 138kV Line Uprate	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Irvington – Drexel 138 kV Line Uprate	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	NL - NARANJA 138 kV Project	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Tortolita – Rancho Vistoso 138kV Line Re-configuration: Tortolita – NL EXP / NL EXP – Rancho Vistoso	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	NL EXP – Rancho Vistoso 138kV Line Uprate	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	NL Expansion 138kV Capacitor Bank Upgrades, Banks 1&2	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Del Cerro - Tucson 138 kV Line Uprate/Reconductor	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Irvington 138 kV Breaker-and-a-half Substation	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	South Loop 345 kV, Conversion to Breaker-and-a-half Substation	Planned	345 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Greenlee 345 kV, Conversion to Breaker-and-a-half Substation	Planned	345 kV
Tucson Electric Power	East Loop Bus Tie Breaker	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	La-Canada Line Switch	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	NorthEast Bus Tie Breaker	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	North Loop – Naranja Line Uprate	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Naranja – Rancho Vistoso Line Uprate	Planned	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Roberts Capacitor Bank Addition	Planned	138 kV
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	Parker – Headgate Rock	Planned	161 kV
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	Tucson Substation	Planned	230 kV

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	Gila 161 kV Substation Rebuild	Planned	161 kV
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	ED-5 – Marana Tap "Saguaro Bypass"	Planned	115 kV

1  
2

## SWAT – Conceptual

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
Arizona Public Service	Northeastern Arizona – Phoenix 500kV line	Conceptual	500 kV AC
Arizona Public Service	Komatke 230/69kV Substation	Conceptual	230 kV
Arizona Public Service	Buckeye – TS11 – Sun Valley 230kV Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Arizona Public Service	Sun Valley – TS10 – TS11 230kV Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Arizona Public Service	Pinal Central – Sundance 230kV Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Arizona Public Service	Orchard – Yucca 230kV Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Arizona Public Service	El Sol – Westwing 230kV Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Arizona Public Service	Avery 230/69kV Substation	Conceptual	230 kV
Arizona Public Service	Scatter Wash 230/69kV Substation	Conceptual	230 kV
Salt River Project	Hassayampa – Pinal West 500kV #2	Conceptual	500 kV AC
Salt River Project	Silver King to RS29 230kV Transmission Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Salt River Project	RS29 to RS30 115kV Transmission Line	Conceptual	115 kV
Salt River Project	RS28 to RS27 230kV Transmission Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Salt River Project	New Oak Flat – Silver King 230kV	Conceptual	230 kV
Salt River Project	New Superior – New Oak Flat 230kV	Conceptual	230 kV
Tucson Electric Power	East Ina 138/13.8 kV Substation	Conceptual	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Sun City 138/13.8 kV Substation	Conceptual	138 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Golden Valley 230kV Transmission Line	Conceptual	230 kV
Tucson Electric Power	Griffith – N. Havasu 69/230kV Transmission Line	Conceptual	230 kV

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Development Status</b>	<b>Voltage</b>
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Orange Grove – East Ina 138kV Transmission Line	Conceptual	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Midvale – Spencer 138 Transmission Line	Conceptual	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Winchester – Vail Double Circuit 345kV Line	Conceptual	345 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Vail 345/138kV Transformer T4	Conceptual	345 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Vail – Irvington (New Substation) – South Loop 345kV Line and Irvington Substation	Conceptual	345 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Willow 345kV Substation	Conceptual	345 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	University of Arizona Tech Park 138/13.8kV Substation	Conceptual	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Spencer 138/13.8kV kV Substation	Conceptual	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Rancho Vistoso – Sun City 138kV Line	Conceptual	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Irvington – Tech Park / Tech Park – Vail 138 kV Line Reconductor	Conceptual	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Anklam 138/13.8kV Substation	Conceptual	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Medina 138/13.8 kV Substation	Conceptual	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	Raytheon 138/13.8 kV Substation	Conceptual	138 kV
<b>Tucson Electric Power</b>	UA Med 138/13.8 kV Substation	Conceptual	138 kV
<b>Western Area Power Administration – DSW</b>	Blythe – Goldmine Tap	Conceptual	161 kV
<b>Western Area Power Administration – DSW</b>	Bouse – Kofa	Conceptual	161 kV
<b>Western Area Power Administration – DSW</b>	Dome Tap-Gila	Conceptual	161 kV
<b>Western Area Power Administration – DSW</b>	Dome Tap – Wellton Mohawk	Conceptual	161 kV
<b>Western Area Power Administration – DSW</b>	Gila – Knob	Conceptual	161 kV
<b>Western Area Power Administration – DSW</b>	Goldmine Tap – Knob	Conceptual	161 kV
<b>Western Area Power Administration – DSW</b>	Headgate Rock – Blythe	Conceptual	161 kV
<b>Western Area Power Administration – DSW</b>	Kofa – Dome Tap	Conceptual	161 kV
<b>Western Area Power Administration – DSW</b>	Parker – Blythe	Conceptual	161 kV
<b>Western Area Power Administration – DSW</b>	Coolidge – Valley Farms	Conceptual	115 kV

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	ED5 – Saguaro Northern	Conceptual	115 kV
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	ED5 – Saguaro Southern	Conceptual	115 kV
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	Valley Farms – Oracle	Conceptual	115 kV
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	Tucson – Nogales	Conceptual	115 kV
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	Saguaro – Tucson	Conceptual	115 kV
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	Nogales – Apache	Conceptual	115 kV
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	Saguaro – Oracle 115kV	Conceptual	115 kV
Western Area Power Administration – DSW	Tucson – Oracle	Conceptual	115 kV

1

2

## Regional (TO Projects in >1 SPG) – Planned

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
NV Energy	Harry Allen 500/230 kV Transformer	Planned	500 kV AC
NV Energy	Miller – NLV 69kV Upgrade	Planned	Below 115 kV
NV Energy	First Solar – Playa 2 (HA230kV)(100MW)	Planned	230 kV
NV Energy	Sun Power – Boulder (NSO230kV) (100MW)	Planned	230 kV
NV Energy	Silverhawk 700MW CC Generator	Planned	500 kV AC
NV Energy	Reid Gardner 4 Retirement	Planned	230 kV
NV Energy	Clark 4 Generator Retirement	Planned	Below 115 kV
NV Energy	Apple 120kV Load	Planned	115 kV
NV Energy	Wild Horse 120kV	Planned	115 kV
NV Energy	Luning Solar – Table Mountain 50MW PV Generator	Planned	115 kV
NV Energy	Coyote Creek 120kV Ring Bus	Planned	115 kV
NV Energy	Tracy 345/120kV XFMR #2	Planned	345 kV
NV Energy	Painted Rock Distribution Substation	Planned	115 kV

1 **Regional (TO Projects in >1 SPG) – Conceptual**

Sponsor	Project Name	Development Status	Voltage
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project	Conceptual	230 kV

2 **Non-Incumbent Developer Projects**

3 The following projects were submitted into the WestConnect TPPL and evaluated for inclusion in the Base Transmission Plan. No projects  
 4 passed the threshold required by the WestConnect Planning Process for inclusion in the base transmission plan, as indicated by the third  
 5 column. However, exclusion from the base transmission plan does not mean that a project is ineligible to seek Order No. 1000 regional cost  
 6 allocation. Eligibility for Order No. 1000 cost allocation is a separate analysis, which follows the identification of regional transmission needs.  
 7 Project submittals for new transmission projects to satisfy an identified regional transmission need will come later in the WestConnect Regional  
 8 Planning Process.

9

Sponsor	Project Name	In Base Plan Transmission Plan?	Voltage
Tres Amigas LLC	Tres Amigas Superstation	No <sup>27</sup>	345 kV
Clean Line Energy Partners	Centennial West Clean Line	No	600 kV DC
Great Basin Transmission, LLC	Southwest Intertie Project or SWIP (SWIP Phase II)	No	500 kV AC
Lucky Corridor, LLC	Lucky Corridor Transmission Project	No	345 kV
San Luis River Colorado Project	SLRC Power Center, Transmission Line	No	230 kV
Southline Transmission, LLC	Southline Transmission Project (Afton – Apache)	No	345 kV
Southline Transmission, LLC	Southline Transmission Project (Apache – Saguaro)	No	230 kV
SunZia Transmission, LLC	SunZia Southwest Transmission Project	No	500 kV AC
TransWest Express, LLC	TransWest Express Project	No	600 kV DC

<sup>27</sup> Only the line from the Tres Amigas Superstation to the Blackwater 345 kV bus is slated for inclusion in the Base Transmission Plan, not the Tres Amigas Superstation facility which is proposed to simultaneously interconnect the Western, Texas, and Eastern Interconnects.

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>In Base Plan Transmission Plan?</b>	<b>Voltage</b>
<b>Wyoming-Colorado Intertie, LLC</b>	Wyoming-Colorado Intertie	No	345 kV
<b>Central Arizona Project</b>	Harcuvar Transmission Project (HTP)	No	230 kV
<b>Clean Line Energy Partners</b>	Western Spirit Clean Line	No	345 kV
<b>Duke-American Transmission Company</b>	Zephyr	No	500 kV DC
<b>Great Basin Energy Development, LLC</b>	Great Basin HVDC	No	500 kV DC
<b>Southwest Transmission Partners, LLC</b>	North Gila – Imperial Valley #2	No	500 kV AC
<b>TransCanada</b>	Chinook	No	500 kV DC

1

1 **Appendix C – WestConnect Regional Project Submittal**  
2 **Form**

3  
4 The WestConnect Regional Project Submittal Form is located on the WestConnect website  
5 ([http://www.westconnect.com/planning\\_order\\_1000\\_stakeholder\\_process.php](http://www.westconnect.com/planning_order_1000_stakeholder_process.php)). Refer to the  
6 website for the most recent version of the form. Excerpts of the form are provided below for  
7 reference.  
8

9 **WestConnect Regional Project Submittal Form<sup>28</sup>**

10 (To be used for submittal of transmission and non-transmission alternatives to address regional transmission  
11 needs identified during the WestConnect Regional Planning Process)  
12

13 **Instructions:**

14 To be eligible to propose a project for selection in the WestConnect Regional Transmission Plan via  
15 this submittal form, a project proponent must be an active member in good standing within one of  
16 the five Planning Management Committee (PMC) membership sectors as described under the  
17 section entitled “WestConnect Planning Governance Process” in the WestConnect Transmission  
18 Owners’ FERC Order 1000 tariffs.  
19

20 All submittals of transmission projects or non-transmission alternatives (collectively referred to as  
21 “projects”) to address an identified regional transmission need, without regard to whether or not  
22 the project seeks regional cost allocation, are to contain the information set forth below, together  
23 with the identified deposit for study costs, and be submitted timely within the posted submittal  
24 window in order for the project submittal to be eligible for evaluation in the WestConnect Regional  
25 Transmission Planning Process.<sup>2930</sup>  
26

27 A single project submittal may not seek multiple study requests. To the extent a project proponent  
28 seeks to have its project studied under a variety of alternative project assumptions, the individual  
29 alternatives must be submitted as individual project submittals.  
30

31 Following the conclusion of the project submittal window, the PMC will post a document on the  
32 WestConnect website detailing why any project submittals were rejected as incomplete. Upon  
33 posting of the document, any project submittal rejected as incomplete will be given a reasonable  
34 opportunity to cure any deficiencies to the satisfaction of the PMC in its sole discretion.  
35

---

<sup>28</sup> As described under “Transmission Project Submittals” & “Submission of Non- Transmission Alternative Projects” in the section entitled “Submission of Data by Customers, Transmission Developers, and Transmission Owners” in the Transmission Owners’ FERC Order 1000 tariff filings.

<sup>29</sup> Should the Project Sponsor believe certain information requested within this form is not necessary, it shall identify the information it believes is not necessary and shall provide a justification for that conclusion. The PMC retains the sole authority for determining completeness of the project submittal form.

<sup>30</sup> The deadline for interregional transmission project submittals and additional submittal instructions are provided under section 1 of this submittal form.

1 Once complete, please return this form and any supplemental information via email to  
2 [projects@westconnect.com](mailto:projects@westconnect.com).

3  
4 \*All information submitted to WestConnect must be marked by the submitter in accordance with  
5 the appropriate document class such that it can be treated appropriately by WestConnect. The  
6 markings should be as follows: a) None or "Public"; b) Contains CEII – Do Not Release; c) Contains  
7 Privileged Information – Do Not Release.  
8

<b>Project Sponsor Information</b>	
Legal Name:	
Mailing Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Business Phone:	

9

<b>Primary Contact Information</b>	
Name:	
Title:	
Mailing Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Phone:	
Email Address:	

10

<b>1. General Project Information</b>	
Description of the Project:	Enter a description of the project, and state whether the project is a transmission project or a non-transmission alternative. Attach supporting documents, as necessary.
Is the project seeking cost allocation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<p>Is the project an interregional transmission project?<sup>3132</sup></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please indicate which other regions this project has been or will be submitted to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> California Independent System Operator (CAISO)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> ColumbiaGrid</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Northern Tier Transmission Group (NTTG)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

1

2. Need(s) Addressed	
<p>Identify which of the posted regional transmission needs the project seeks to satisfy.</p>	<p>Please enter a detailed explanatory statement addressing how the project meets the posted regional transmission need(s). In addition, explain how the project is a more efficient or cost effective solution to the identified need(s). Attach supporting documents, as necessary.</p>
<p>To the extent known, identify the multiple solutions set forth in the local transmission plans of WestConnect Transmission Owners(i.e., the solutions of two or more TOs to the identified regional need)for which your single</p>	

<sup>31</sup> An interregional transmission project is a proposed new transmission project that would directly interconnect electrically to existing or planned transmission facilities in two or more Planning Regions (i.e. WestConnect, CAISO, ColumbiaGrid, or NTTG ) and that is submitted into the regional transmission planning processes of the Planning Regions it will directly interconnect with electrically.

<sup>32</sup> Interregional transmission projects must be submitted to WestConnect no later than March 31 of even-numbered calendar years. Since this is outside of the regional project submittal window, a submitter of an interregional transmission project need not identify which of the posted regional transmission needs the project seeks to satisfy (section 2) and need not submit the study deposit (section 3) as of March 31. During the regional project submittal window, a submitter of an interregional transmission project must provide any updates to previously submitted project information and must complete section 2 and section 3 to be considered a valid project submittal eligible for consideration by WestConnect.

regional project would be the more efficient or cost effective solution.	
--	--

1

3. Study Deposit <sup>33</sup>	
Has the Project Sponsor submitted a \$25,000 deposit to support the cost of relevant study work, subject to true-up (up or down) based upon the actual cost of the study(ies)? <sup>34</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please attach supporting documents) <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. Project Description & Engineering and Modeling Data Required - Transmission
--

Transmission Alternatives

Please provide a detailed explanation of each of the project characteristics identified in this Section 4. Attach supporting documents, as necessary.

Should the Project Sponsor believe certain information is not necessary, it shall identify the information it believes is not necessary and shall provide a justification for its conclusion that the information is not necessary.

a. Project Scope	
b. Points of interconnection to existing (or planned) system	
c. Operating Voltage and Alternating Current or Direct Current technology utilized	
d. Circuit Configuration (Single, Double, Double-Circuit capable, etc.)	
e. Impedance Information	
f. Approximate circuit mileage	

<sup>33</sup> Please contact [projects@westconnect.com](mailto:projects@westconnect.com) to obtain instructions for submitting the study deposit.

<sup>34</sup> The true-up will include interest on the difference between the deposit and the actual cost, with such interest calculated in accordance with section 35.19a(a)(2) of FERC's regulations. A description of the costs to which the deposit was applied, how the costs were calculated, and an accounting of the costs will be provided to each project sponsor within 30 calendar days of the completion of the study. Dispute resolution is addressed pursuant to the "Dispute Resolution" section for disputes between members of the PMC, as listed in the Transmission Owners' FERC order 1000 Tariff filings.

g. Description of any special facilities (series capacitors, phase shifting transformers, etc.) required for the project	
h. Status within the WECC path rating process	
i. Change files to add the project to the WestConnect regional power flow model (PSLF .epc file format is preferred)	<input type="checkbox"/> Provided as an attachment
j. System one-line diagram	<input type="checkbox"/> Provided as an attachment <input type="checkbox"/> Not available

1  
2

<b>4. Project Description &amp; Engineering and Modeling Data Required - NTA</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Non Transmission Alternatives</u></p> <p>Please provide a detailed explanation of each of the project characteristics identified in this Section 4. Attach supporting documents, as necessary.</p> <p>Should the Project Sponsor believe certain information is not necessary, it shall identify the information it believes is not necessary and shall provide a justification for its conclusion that the information is not necessary.</p> <p>Although non-transmission alternative projects will be considered in the Regional Planning Process, they are not eligible for regional cost allocation.</p>	
a. Basic description of the project (e.g. fuel, size, location, point of contact)	
b. Operational benefits	
c. Load offset, if applicable	
d. Description of the issue sought to be resolved by the generating facility or non- transmission alternative, including reference to any results of prior technical studies	
e. Network model of the project, and associated system one-line diagram	<input type="checkbox"/> Provided as an attachment

	<input type="checkbox"/> Not available
f. Short-circuit data	<input type="checkbox"/> Provided as an attachment <input type="checkbox"/> Not available
g. Protection data	<input type="checkbox"/> Provided as an attachment <input type="checkbox"/> Not available
h. Other technical data that might be needed for resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Provided as an attachment
i. Additional miscellaneous data (e.g., change files if available)	<input type="checkbox"/> Provided as an attachment

1

<b>5. Proposed Project Schedule</b>	
a. Project in-service date b. Estimated Project Cost (expressed in current year's dollars) and description of basis for that cost. c. Description of plan for post-construction maintenance and operation of the proposed line d. Operating costs (For Non-Transmission Alternatives Only)	Please provide a detailed explanation of each of the project characteristics identified in this Section 5. Attach supporting documents, as necessary.

2

<b>6. Environmental Impact(s)</b>	
a. Comparison Risk Score and other data obtained from WECC Environmental Data Work Group, if available.	Please provide a detailed explanation of each of the project characteristics identified in this Section 6. Attach supporting documents, as necessary.

b. Diagram showing geographical location and/or preferred route; general description of permitting challenges	
---	--

1

<b>7. System Impact and Other Study Work</b>	
<p>a. Impacts to other regions. Provide transmission system impact studies showing system reliability impacts to neighboring transmission systems or another transmission planning region.<sup>35</sup> The information should identify all costs associated with any required upgrades to mitigate adverse impacts on other transmission systems.</p> <p>b. Independent study work of, or relevant to, the project.</p> <p>c. WECC study work of, or relevant to, the project.</p>	<p>Please provide a detailed explanation of each of the items identified in this Section 7. Attach supporting documents, as necessary.</p>

1

---

<sup>35</sup> *If impact studies and costs are not available at the time of submittal, the Project Sponsor may request that impact studies be performed, at the Project Sponsor's expense, as part of the analysis to determine whether the project is the more efficient or cost-effective solution. Requests for transmission system impact studies are approved through the PMC depending on whether the project proponent provides funding for the analysis. The PMC will provide, subject to appropriate confidentiality and CEII restrictions, the information in the possession of the PMC that the Project Sponsor needs to perform the transmission system impact study and to identify the costs associated with any upgrades required to mitigate adverse impacts.*



# Appendix D –WestConnect Scenario Submittal Form

The WestConnect Scenario Submittal Form is located on the WestConnect website ([http://www.westconnect.com/planning\\_order\\_1000\\_stakeholder\\_process.php](http://www.westconnect.com/planning_order_1000_stakeholder_process.php)). Refer to the website for the most recent version of the form. Excerpts of the form are provided below for reference.

## WestConnect Scenario Submittal Form 2016/17 Planning Cycle

Requestor Organization Information	
<b>Legal Name:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>City/State/Zip:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Business Phone:</b>	Click here to enter text.
Primary Contact Information	
<b>Name:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Title:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>City/State/Zip:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Phone:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Email Address:</b>	Click here to enter text.

General Information	
<b>Scenario Name:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Requested Study Year (e.g. 2026):</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Study Type:</b> Check one or more	<input type="checkbox"/> Reliability (steady-state) <input type="checkbox"/> Reliability (transient stability) <input type="checkbox"/> Economic (production cost analysis)
<b>Scenario Description &amp; Summary:</b> <i>Summary of key load, resource, transmission, and/or policy assumptions</i>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Describe how scenario provides valuable information to the WestConnect PMC:</b> <i>Summary of issues addressed by scenario</i>	Click here to enter text.

<b>General Information</b>	
<b>Describe the expertise and information that the requestor will provide to the PMC in support of this scenario:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Geographic scope:</b>	Click here to enter text.
<b>Load and resource assumptions:</b> Details on assumptions	Click here to enter text.
<b>Transmission modeling assumptions:</b> Details on assumptions	Click here to enter text.
<b>Policy Issues to be Addressed:</b> Expanded summary; e.g. State, RES, FERC, NERC, etc	Click here to enter text.
<b>Attached map of study elements?</b>	Choose an item.

1

# Appendix E – Other Regional Planning Process Activities

The PMC will identify transmission developers eligible to utilize cost allocation developed in the Regional Planning Process using the Transmission Developer Qualification Criteria. Transmission developers seeking eligibility for potential designation as the entity eligible to use the regional cost allocation for a transmission project selected in the Regional Plan for purposes of cost allocation must submit to the PMC information as specified in the tariff of each TO Member. The submittal window for this information as part of the 2016–17 planning cycle will be determined by the PMC.

Once projects have been selected for inclusion in the Regional Plan, WestConnect will select an eligible transmission developer (as determined by the Transmission Developer Qualification Criteria mentioned above) to utilize the cost allocation developed for each project selected for the purposes of cost allocation.

Please follow a link listed below to view the Transmission Developer Qualification Criteria and the developer selection process.

<b>WestConnect TO Member</b>	<b>OASIS Link to Tariff</b>
Arizona Public Service Company	<a href="http://www.oasis.oati.com/azps/index.html">http://www.oasis.oati.com/azps/index.html</a>
Black Hills Power, Inc.	<a href="http://www.oatioasis.com/BHBE/index.html">http://www.oatioasis.com/BHBE/index.html</a>
Black Hills Colorado Electric Utility Company, LP	<a href="http://www.oatioasis.com/bhct/index.html">http://www.oatioasis.com/bhct/index.html</a>
Cheyenne Light Fuel & Power Company	<a href="http://www.oatioasis.com/CLPT/index.html">http://www.oatioasis.com/CLPT/index.html</a>
El Paso Electric Company	<a href="http://www.oatioasis.com/epe/index.html">http://www.oatioasis.com/epe/index.html</a>
NV Energy	<a href="http://www.oatioasis.com/NEVP/index.html">http://www.oatioasis.com/NEVP/index.html</a>
Public Service Company of New Mexico	<a href="http://www.oatioasis.com/pnm/index.html">http://www.oatioasis.com/pnm/index.html</a>
Tucson Electric Power Company	<a href="http://www.oatioasis.com/tepc/index.html">http://www.oatioasis.com/tepc/index.html</a>
UNS Electric, Inc.	<a href="http://www.oatioasis.com/UNST/index.html">http://www.oatioasis.com/UNST/index.html</a>
Xcel Energy – Public Service Company of Colorado	<a href="http://www.oasis.oati.com/psco/index.html">http://www.oasis.oati.com/psco/index.html</a>

# 1 **Appendix F – Data Exchange Procedures for Regional**

## 2 **Model Development**

3 The steps below provide a summary of how the regional planning models will be developed. More  
4 details will be provided in a forthcoming Model Development Report. Importantly, the power flow  
5 models and production cost models should maintain consistent electric topologies (e.g., matching load,  
6 generator, and branch models) throughout their development.

### 7 **Step 1 - Review topology and data accuracy of the WECC**

#### 8 **Cases**

##### 9 **Power Flow Models**

10 Participants will identify changes to the WECC 2026 Heavy Summer (26HS1) and WECC 2026 Light  
11 Spring (26LS1) power flow cases necessary to represent the regional base transmission plan. Data  
12 accuracy should be ensured for all elements (buses, branches, shunt devices, loads, resources, etc.)  
13 excluding review of individual load and resource magnitudes (L&R modifications will be done at a later  
14 step after topology is correct).

15 Open elements that represent planned projects not included in the base transmission plan (or “excluded  
16 planned projects”) should be removed from the cases.

17 Changes that include more than one data owner (e.g., tie lines) need to be coordinated with all affected  
18 owners and such coordination should be documented in the review comments.

##### 19 **Production Cost Model**

20 Participants will identify electric topology changes to the WECC 2026 Common Case (2026CC) necessary  
21 to represent the regional base transmission plan and for consistency with the 26HS1 and 26LS1 power  
22 flow cases. The latter will likely involve comparing the electric topology of the 2025 Heavy Summer  
23 (25HS1), 26HS1, and 26LS1 power flow cases.

24 The study consultant will export the 2026CC topology into a set of spreadsheets for review by all  
25 participants, in which the differences between it and the 26HS1 & 26LS1 cases will be highlighted.  
26 Participants with the ABB GridView software will be able to review the model directly. At a minimum,  
27 the review of topology will include:

- 28 • General Load, Generator, and Branch (Transformers & Lines) data – e.g., name, ID, bus location,  
29 ownership, type, and the area or region to which it belongs
- 30 • Branch switching throughout the year
- 31 • Lists of Interfaces (groups of branches) and Nomograms (groups of operationally tied elements)  
32 and their definitions (included elements), along with limit values (ratings)
- 33 • List of Areas, Regions, and Reserve Sharing Groups, along with mappings to power flow areas  
34 and zones

## 1 **Step 2 - Submit changes**

2 All change submittals will include two pieces of information: (1) software-specific change files for direct  
3 application to the power flow cases and (2) written comments which describe the intended revisions. In  
4 particular, modeling details for each “excluded planned project” should be submitted in separate change  
5 files so that they can be tracked separately from other topology updates (e.g., for potential application to  
6 one or more scenario cases or as alternatives to meet regional needs).

### 7 **Power Flow Models**

8 SWAT and SSPG participants (PSLF users) will submit change files in epc append format (\*.epc) to the  
9 study consultant. PNM has a tool that works like the WECCtools epcl\_extract program for PSLF users—it  
10 produces an epc file instead of an EPCL script (\*.p). A separate epc change file should be provided for  
11 each set of related updates, and each with comments describing the intended updates.

12 CCPG participants (primarily PSS/E users) will submit changes to the CCPG coordinator. One hundred is  
13 the estimated threshold for element deletions; above this number, it will likely be more efficient for the  
14 study consultant to develop a script to produce individual epc change files. As a result:

- 15 • If the number of element deletions is 100 or less, then the CCPG coordinator will submit PSS/E  
16 raw format append files (\*.raw) to the study consultant that each include comments describing  
17 intended updates, with **emphasis** given to elements that must be deleted from the model, since  
18 raw append files do not explicitly include deletion flagging.
- 19 • If the number of element deletions exceeds 100, then the CCPG coordinator will submit a  
20 complete case in PSS/E raw format (\*.raw) which includes all desired updates, including  
21 comments describing the embedded updates, with **emphasis** given to elements that must be  
22 deleted from the model, since raw files do not explicitly include deletion flagging.

### 23 **Production Cost Model**

24 Participants will submit changes based on whether or not they have the ABB GridView software:

- 25 • All participants will be able to update the information in the spreadsheets provided in Step 1.  
26 Participants will submit the revised spreadsheet file(s) and comments describing the intended  
27 updates to the study consultant.
- 28 • GridView users will be able to update the information directly within the GridView software.  
29 These participants will submit change files in MS Access format (\*.mdb) that can be made via  
30 GridView’s “Database Comparison” feature (i.e., comparing the updated case with the original).  
31 A separate MDB change file should be provided for each set of related updates, and each with a  
32 descriptive name and comments describing the intended updates.

## 33 **Step 3 - First Modification of WECC Cases**

### 34 **Power Flow Models**

35 The study consultant will incorporate submitted topology revisions, check RPS, solve cases, and flag  
36 suspicious data. Participant voltage limits and contingency definitions developed during the 2015  
37 abbreviated planning cycle will be used to test the cases. The cases and test contingency analysis output  
38 will be posted for participant review. This test contingency analysis output will be discarded after

1 review because testing is the only purpose of the output. Contingency definitions for the 2016–17  
2 planning cycle will be developed in a later step.

### 3 **Production Cost Model**

4 The study consultant will incorporate submitted topology revisions, check RPS and resource adequacy,  
5 run a test simulation, and flag suspicious data. The case (in GridView and spreadsheet formats) and its  
6 simulation output (benchmarked against historical data) will be posted for participant review.

## 7 **Step 4 - Second Modification of WECC Cases and Creation of** 8 **Regional Scenario Cases**

### 9 **Power Flow Models**

10 Participants will review the first modification cases along with their test contingency analysis output  
11 and submit further topology and voltage limit corrections, if any.

12 The participants, in coordination with the SPGs, will review and submit revisions to the loads, resources,  
13 and area interchange for corrected base and scenario power flow conditions. The SPGs will submit  
14 Loads and Resources (L&R) and area interchange in any of three formats: PSLF epc append files, PSS/E  
15 raw append files, and/or spreadsheets.

16 The study consultant will modify and solve the cases. The test contingency analysis will be repeated. The  
17 cases and test contingency analysis output will be posted for participant review (as previously  
18 mentioned, test contingency analysis output will be discarded after review).

### 19 **Production Cost Models**

20 Participants will review the first modification case along with its outputs and submit further topology  
21 corrections, if any.

22 The participants, in coordination with the SPGs, will review and submit revisions to the loads, resources,  
23 and associated economic and constraint data to represent each of the year-long base & scenario  
24 production cost cases. At a minimum, the data to be reviewed and revised will include:

- 25 • Generator minimum and maximum capacity(ies), operating efficiencies (e.g., heat rates), and  
26 costs (e.g., fuel, variable operations and maintenance, or VOM)
- 27 • Ratings for Interfaces (group of branches)
- 28 • Limits of Nomograms (groups of operationally tied elements)
- 29 • Reserve Requirements by Areas, Regions, Reserve Sharing Groups, and Owner

30 The participants will submit updates in either of two formats: revised spreadsheets or MDB change files  
31 made with GridView’s “Database Comparison” feature.

32 The study consultant will incorporate submitted revisions, check RPS and resource adequacy, run a test  
33 simulation, and flag suspicious data. The cases (in GridView and spreadsheet formats) and their  
34 simulation outputs (benchmarked against historical data) will be posted for participant review.

1 **Step 5 - Develop Contingency Definitions**

2 **Power Flow Models**

3 The guiding objective for developing contingency definitions is to identify regional transmission needs.  
4 The objective does not include supplementing TO's TPL standards compliance studies.

5 After receipt of the final changes from participants, the study consultant will incorporate the changes  
6 and solve the cases. An initial list of automatically created single branch outages 230kV and above will  
7 be created and contingency analysis performed. (Note that results from the 2015 abbreviated cycle  
8 appeared to show no regional issues for 115kV outages, but participant time was spent reviewing and  
9 addressing many flagged 115kV issues. The intent of limiting the scope of contingencies to 230kV and  
10 above for this planning cycle is to improve efficiency). The cases and contingency analysis results will be  
11 posted for participant review.

12 Participants will review the single branch outage list and (a) identify invalid single branch outages to  
13 remove and (b) identify other contingencies (regardless of P level) not included in the list that could  
14 potentially flag regional transmission needs. Participants should submit contingency definitions in the  
15 WECC Contingency and RAS Format. PSS/E does not support the WECC Contingency and RAS Format.  
16 Participants who rely on PSS/E and do not use PSLF or PowerWorld Simulator can submit contingency  
17 definitions in the PSS/E ACCC \*.con format.

18 **Production Cost Model**

19 Participants will identify which, if any, contingencies warrant representation in the production cost  
20 cases.

21 **Step 6 - Finalize Cases**

22 The study consultant will incorporate final submitted changes. The final cases, contingency analysis  
23 outputs (for power flow cases), and simulation outputs (for production cost cases) will be posted for a  
24 final review before PMC approval.

25 **Step 7 - Transient Stability Simulations (Power Flow Only)**

26 Transient stability simulations require additional data (switching sequences and times, fault impedance,  
27 and dynamic data not included in the WECC Master Dynamics File) and a customized procedure will be  
28 developed in order to enable those specific simulations.