



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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Regional Transmission Expansion Project

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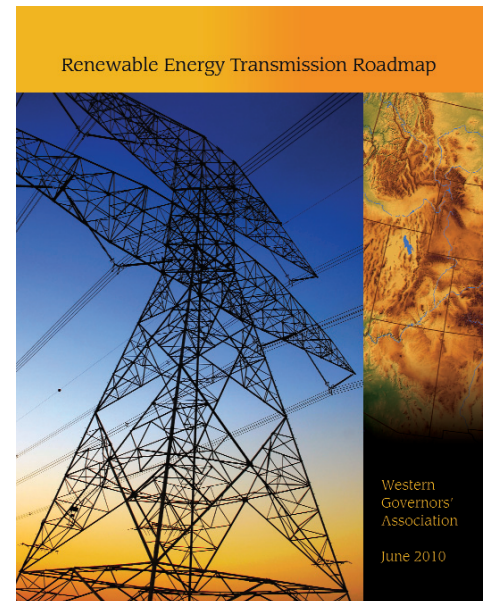
Governors and public utility commissioners within the Western Interconnection share the goal of having an electricity generation and transmission system that is clean, secure, reliable and reasonably priced. Reaching that goal will require greater development and use of renewable energy resources and expansion of the existing transmission grid.

The Western Governors' Association, Western Interstate Energy Board and Western Electricity Coordinating Council are working with diverse stakeholders through the Regional Transmission Expansion Project (RTEP) to analyze transmission requirements under a broad range of alternative energy futures and to develop long-term, interconnection-wide transmission expansion plans. Information on wildlife sensitivities and water availability is being developed to minimize impacts of potential future energy generation on already limited water resources, wildlife and other important land uses.

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, this project will produce invaluable information in siting new transmission. The RTEP also will build upon earlier work by the WGA and DOE under the Western Renewable Energy Zones – Phase 1 initiative. This will include:

- Identification of load-serving entities' (LSEs) preferred renewable energy zones
- Developing a collaborative regional approach to siting interstate transmission lines.
- Developing cost allocation options related to high voltage transmission lines from geographically constrained renewable resource areas to load centers.

As part of the overall project, various future electricity generation and transmission scenarios will be developed to show the impacts each would have on the economies, natural resources and landscapes. The information will assist state policy makers; regulators responsible for facility siting, water and wildlife; the federal government; generation and transmission developers; load-serving entities; and the public, including non-governmental organizations.



Funding within this project is being utilized by WGA and the Western Governors' Wildlife Council to develop a useful and consistent source of mapped biological information throughout the West. State wildlife agencies have launched 2-year pilot projects across the region to begin building transparent, GIS-based Decision Support Systems that will allow them and the public



to better understand potential impacts to crucial wildlife habitat and important corridors. This process will establish regionally consistent wildlife information, making it easier to minimize impacts when planning for future energy generation and transmission throughout the Western Interconnection. These pilot projects will be invaluable to the ultimate development of wildlife DSSs in Western states.

Western Governors have long recognized looming challenges with meeting demand and see the RTEP as an opportunity to develop and further the understanding of the impacts of our energy choices on water availability. WGA will work with state water managers, energy offices, and regulators as well as other agencies authorities with responsibility for water supply management and electricity production to develop a better understanding of the impacts of our energy choices on water.

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