Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation Transmission Collaborative

October 13, 2026

Today's Objectives

- State/provincial policymakers hear updates and provide feedback regarding WestTEC's efforts to establish a repeatable, durable study process (dubbed WestTEC 2.0).

- State/provincial policymakers discuss and provide input to WestTEC organizers on the following questions:
    - What should be the role of state/provincial policymakers (regulators and energy offices) in WestTEC 2.0?
    - What infrastructure is needed to support that role for states and provinces?

Agenda

10:30 a.m.	**Welcome, introductions, agenda review**
10:35 a.m.	**Updates from WestTEC,** Sarah Edmonds, Western Power Pool • Review of WestTEC 1.0 work since 2024 • Introduction to WestTEC 2.0 including plans and changes under consideration • Review of state and provincial responses to pre-meeting survey questions
10:55 a.m.	**Discussion of state and provincial engagement in WestTEC 2.0**
11:25 a.m.	**Wrap up and next steps**

Reminder of Working Assumptions

- This effort does not presume to supersede state, federal, or local jurisdictional decision-making processes; rather, it is intended to create a collaborative space for states and provinces to learn and discuss opportunities together.
- **Conversations will be technical and advanced; Participants are encouraged to ask questions, engage in discussions, and provide feedback.**
- **To maximize candor, the CREPC TC will not be open to participants beyond CREPC member organizations; participants agree not to attribute the perspectives exchanged outside of CREPC TC discussions. The TC will create forums for others to engage.**
- CREPC TC is not meant to be a decision-making body. Decisions are deferred to CREPC on whole.
- Some CREPC TC efforts may be better accomplished by a subset of working group participants.

Updates and discussion of WestTEC 2.0 state and provincial engagement

WestTEC/CREPC Transmission Collaborative

WestTEC 1.0: Preliminary 20-Year Results and

WestTEC 2.0: WAG conclusions and preliminary CREPC-TC views

October 13, 2026

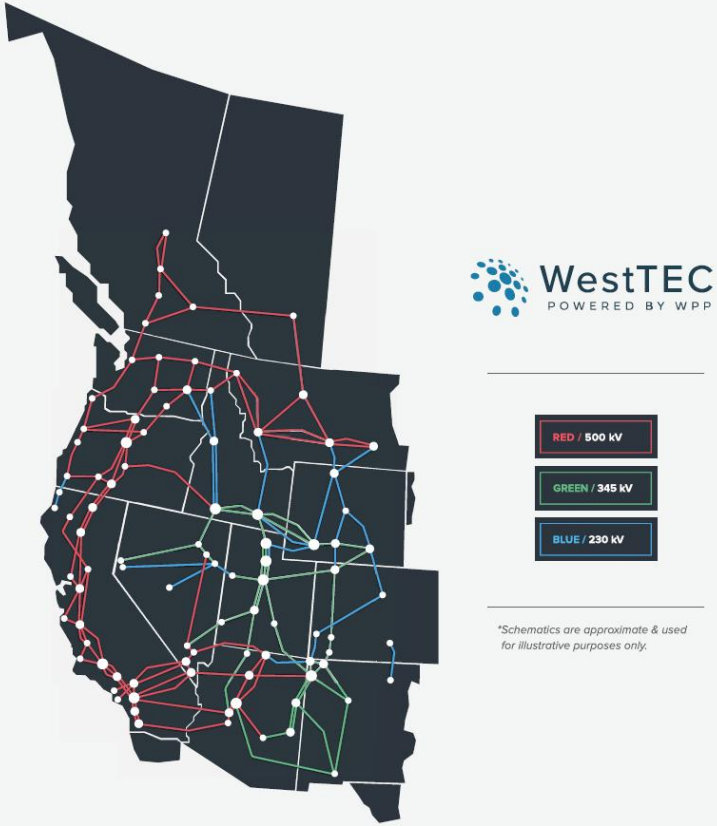
Contents

1. WestTEC 1.0
   - » Background
   - » Schedule update
   - » Preview of 20-year Horizon assessment – answers to key questions
   - » Benefit study
   - » How WestTEC is being used
2. WestTEC 2.0
   - » Preliminary Results/Discussion

Western Transmission Expansion Coalition – "WestTEC"

- ***West-wide 10 and 20-year transmission study***
- ***Industry-led with unprecedented regional partner inclusion***
- ***Goal is to produce an actionable transmission study that addresses interregional planning gap***

Voluntary and Informational	Integrated and consolidated	Innovative
• It is not a routine or mandated compliance exercise • Complementary and not replacing other planning process	• Avoids siloed planning • Favors system-wide view	• New planning approaches for new challenges • Offers actionable transmission projects that can be pursued by others.



WestTEC 1.0 Schedule Overview

- WestTEC anticipates issuing its final report, including 20-year horizon findings, in **December 2026**
- The technical committees and consultants are focused on:
  - Final “Flux” scenario analyses
  - Finalizing the “WestTEC Portfolio” and its costs
  - Quantifying benefits
  - Drafting the final report
- Committee and public engagement has been strong

Timeline

	8/24 - 8/28	8/31 – 9/4	9/7 – 9/11	9/14 – 9/18	9/21 – 9/25	9/28 – 10/2	10/5 – 10/9	10/12 – 10/16	10/19 – 10/23
ES Technical Work									
ES Draft Report									
Committee Meetings	All-Committees			WATT – 9/15 REC – 9/17			WATT – 10/6 REC – 10/8		

	10/26 – 10/30	11/2 – 11/6	11/9 – 11/13	11/16 – 11/20	11/23 – 11/27	11/30 – 12/4	12/7 - 12/11	12/14 – 12/18	12/21 – 12/31
ES Draft Report									
Committee Review			WATT/REC Review				Steering Review		
Committee Meetings	All-Committees – Oct 28			WATT – 11/17 REC – 11/19			Steering Vote 12/9		
Report Finalization									

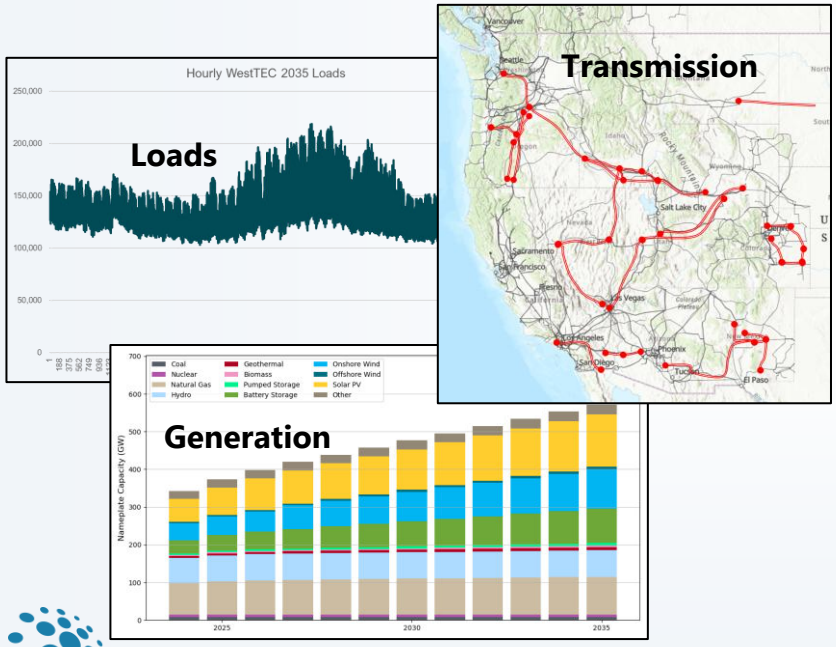
Background: The last time we talked

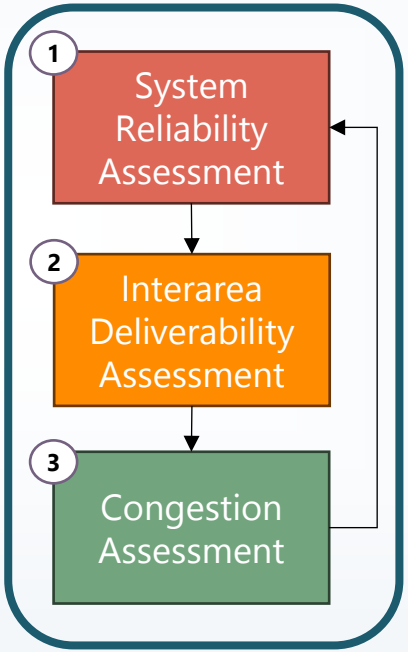
- In July, WestTEC provided the CREPC-TC with a presentation reviewing
  - Reference Case transmission portfolio
  - Overview of how we solve for transmission needs and identify solutions
  - Review of benefit methods
  - Reactions to buildout, how to communicate findings, discussion among CREPC-TC
- Since then, WestTEC has made substantial progress on
  - Finalizing Reference and Core transmission portfolios and are nearing completion on the FLUX scenario
  - Identifying likely "persistent" upgrades, making up our "WestTEC Portfolio"
  - Completing case building activities for the counterfactual scenario
  - Preparing the benefit study



WestTEC Study Framework

Scenario-specific forecasts of….





Three Transmission Needs Assessment Methods

Which transmission investments are necessary to maintain reliability during typical heavy loading conditions?

Which investments deliver power from where it is produced to where it is consumed during times of critical need?

Which investments enable load to be served with lower-cost generation?

WestTEC transmission portfolio

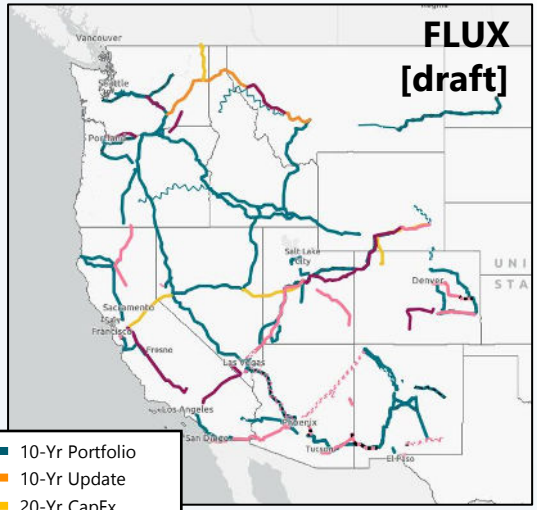
WestTEC 20-Year Study: Five Key Questions

A scenario-based assessment of transmission needs, robust investments, and portfolio value

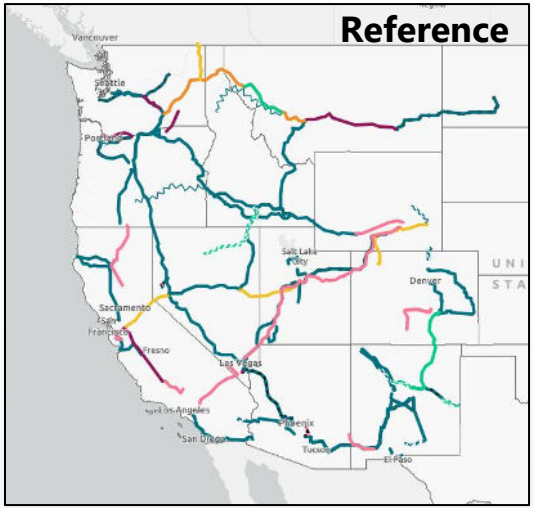
1. **What transmission infrastructure will the West need by 2045?**
   Identify future load and resource drivers, and the transmission reliability, deliverability, and congestion gaps they create.
2. **Which investments are needed across multiple plausible futures?**
   Distinguish persistent, least-regrets upgrades from solutions that depend on particular scenarios.
3. **How should the 2035 portfolio evolve to meet 2045 needs?**
   Consider right-sizing, sequencing, and coordinate g near-term projects to avoid inefficient or duplicative investment.
4. **What value does a coordinated Western transmission portfolio provide?**
   Quantify economic, reliability, resource adequacy, and resilience benefits relative to alternative futures.
5. **How can WestTEC findings translate into actionable development?**
   Provide cost, routing, alternative, and beneficiary information to support planning, siting, and investment decisions.

What transmission infrastructure will the West need by 2045?

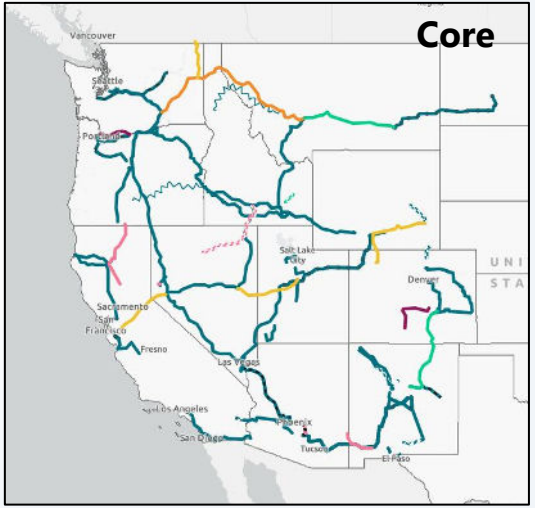
- 2045 transmission needs build on and in some cases reshape the 2035 portfolio
- Substantial overlap between scenarios: 37 of 43 Core upgrades are also included in the Reference portfolio.
- Total estimated investment is significant: ~$92B in Reference versus ~$74B in Core; Flux estimate pending.



Higher load growth (3.0%/yr); rapid renewable and storage expansion



Expected load (2.2%/yr), technology, and policy trends



Lower load growth (2.0%/yr); greater reliance on firm resources and advanced technologies

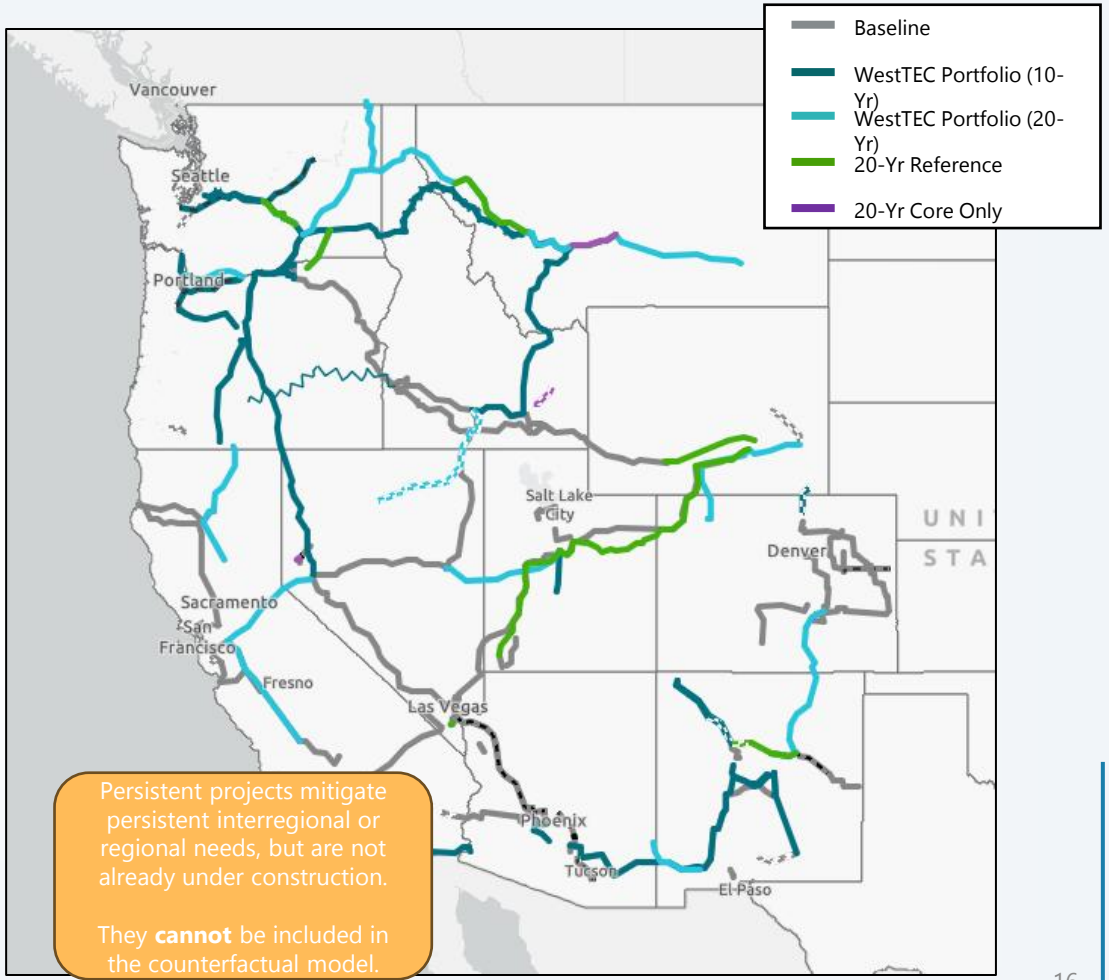
Which investments are needed across multiple plausible futures?

- The study identifies a core portfolio of lower-regret transmission investments that can be advanced with greater confidence despite long-term planning uncertainty.
  - Despite detailed modeling of different futures, substantial transmission needs persist across scenarios
- This **"WestTEC Portfolio"** represents the common, high-value transmission investments identified (beyond committed or otherwise unavoidable baseline projects)



10-Year Persistent Projects (1 of 2)

Project Name
Montana to Washington (M2W)
Bonanza to Lower Columbia 500kV Reinforcement - Six Mile
Bonanza to Lower Columbia 500kV Reinforce - Longhorn to Bonanza
Bonanza to Lower Columbia 500kV Reinforcement - Bonanza
Big Eddy - Ostrander-Pearl rebuild
Cross Cascades North Upgrade TSEP 2022
Grand Coulee - Columbia - Schultz 500-kV
Schultz - Olympia 500 kV Transmission Line
Imperial Valley–North of SONGS 500 kV Line and Substation
North Gila - Imperial Valley #2
North of SONGS–Serrano 500 kV line
Serrano–Del Amo–Mesa 500 kV Transmission Reinforcement
Corral to Grassland Annex 500kV Line
Corral to Snow Goose 500kV Line
Grassland Annex to B2H Tap Substation 500kV Line
Sigurd - Clover 345 kV line
Jojoba to Rudd 500kV line
Hassayampa - Pinal West 500kV #2
Bethel-Round Butte 500kV upgrade
Harborton-Trojan #3 & #4 230kV

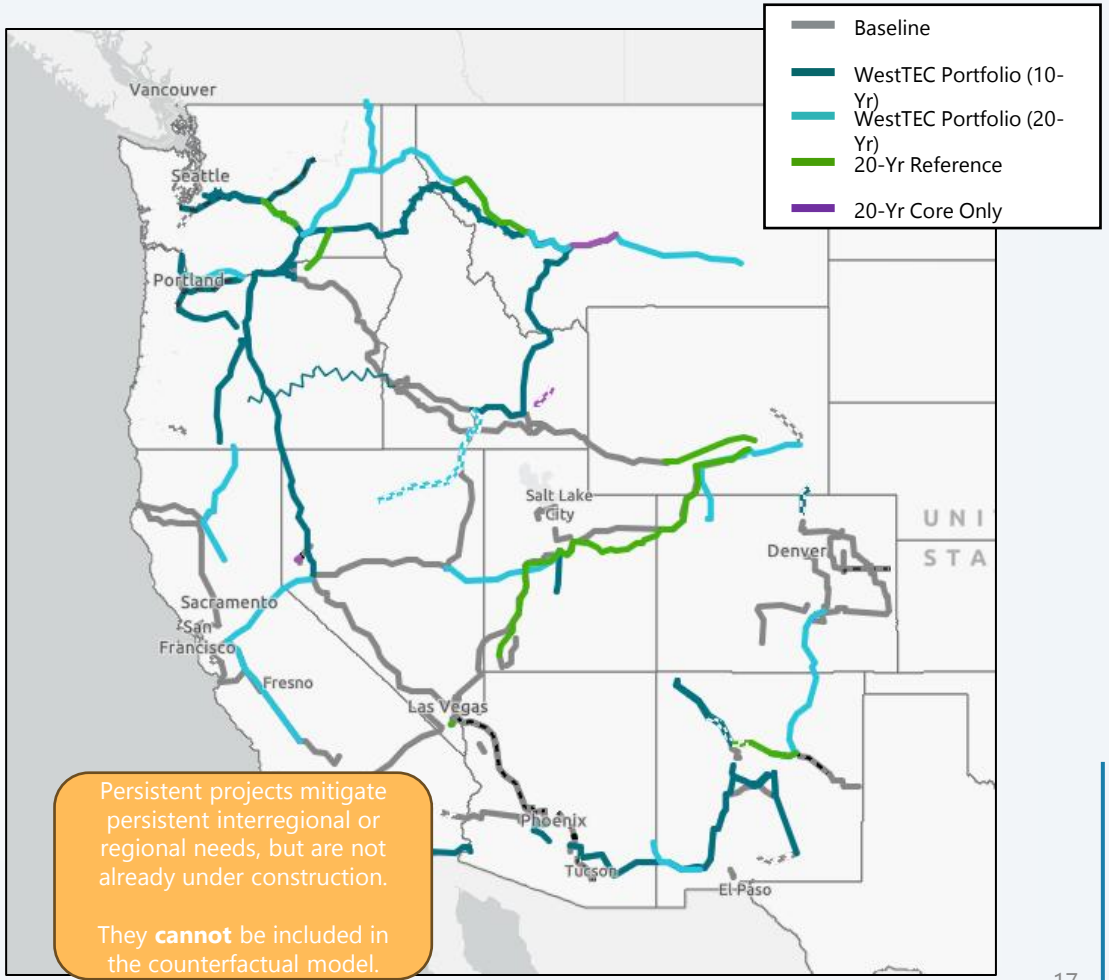


Persistent projects mitigate persistent interregional or regional needs, but are not already under construction.

They **cannot** be included in the counterfactual model.

10-Year Persistent Projects (2 of 2)

Project Name
Bolo Tie
Western Spirit - Chavez County 345kV Line
Western Spirit - Hidden Mountain 345kV #2 Line
Cross-Cascades Project
Add a new Townsend - Midpoint 500 kV transmission line
Four Corners - San Juan 345 kV ckt 2
New Four Corners - Pintado 345 kV ckt 2
New Rio Puerco - San Juan 345 kV ckt 2
Townsend - Ashe 500kV Line #1
Walker - Bonanza 500kV Line #1
Uprate Hemingway - Summer Lake Ckt 1 via Substation upgrades
Reconductor Rio Puerco - Pintado ckt 1 to 2160 MVA Capacity
RioSol
Colstrip - Broadview 500 kV series cap upgrade
Path 36 TOT 3



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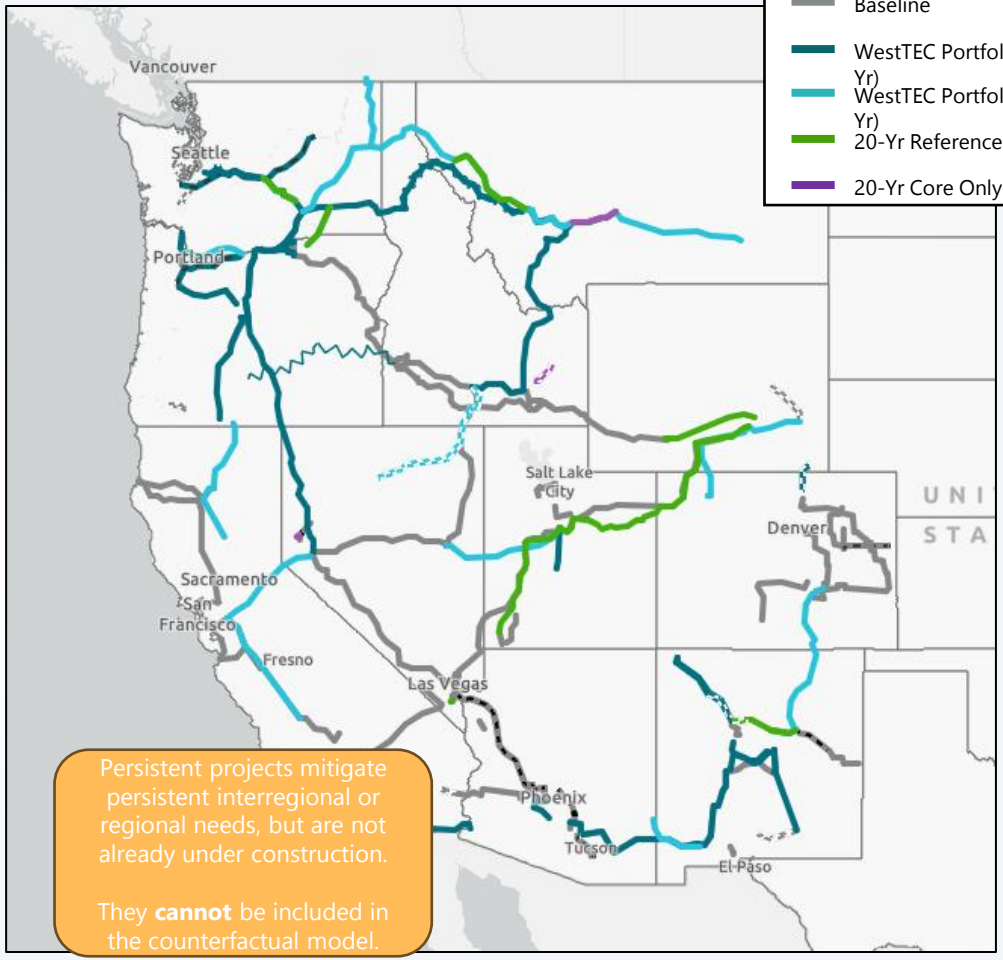
20-Year Persistent Projects

Project Name
New BPA Bell BPA – Ashe 500 kV line ckt 1
New BPA Bell BPA – Ashe 500 kV line ckt 2
New BPA Bell BPA - GASH 500 kV line
New BPA Garrison – GASH 500 kV line
New Townsend - Garrison 500 kV line
Aeolus-Craig 500 kV Line
Aeolus-LRS 500kV Line
Cross Tie Transmission
Walker River – Tesla 500 kV line
Path 3 Expansion - Selkirk-Vaseux Lake Series Cap
Path 3 Expansion - Vaseux Lake-Nicola Series Cap
Path 3 Expansion - Selkirk-Ashton Creek Series Cap
Path 3 Expansion - Ashton Creek-Nicola Series Cap
Path 3 Expansion - New Bell-Selkirk ckt 1
Path 3 Expansion - New Bell-Selkirk ckt 2
Fern Road - Table Mt 500kV line
Captain Jack – Fern Road 500kV line
Greenlee – Luna 345kV line
Path 16 Reconductor
Clines Corner - Sandstone 345kV Line
Cascade Renewable Transmission Project
Broadview to Loco Mountain 500kV Line
Colstrip 500 to Broadview C 500kV Line



Persistent projects mitigate persistent interregional or regional needs, but are not already under construction.

They **cannot** be included in the counterfactual model.

What value does a coordinated Western transmission portfolio provide?

If we do not construct the WestTEC Portfolio we must build something else – do nothing is not practical

WestTEC Portfolio

- Persistent 10- and 20-year transmission portfolio
- Coordinated interregional buildout
- Diverse, lower-cost resources and enhanced interregional capacity



Comparison will yield benefit assessment of the WestTEC Portfolio

Counterfactual

- Baseline/unavoidable transmission
- Additional piecemeal local transmission
- More costly and local generation, storage, and demand response
- Higher operating costs, less diversity

Example of a draft benefit:

PRELIMINARY RESOURCE SAVINGS ASSOCIATED WITH WESTTEC PORTFOLIO=

~$27.5B

2026 present value of lower resource costs associated with WestTEC Portfolio (draft results)

BENEFITS AND COSTS COMPARED IN STUDY

- Resource investment
- Transmission investment
- Operating costs for many weather years
- Avoided emissions
- Peak-loss savings
- Extreme event resilience

How can these findings inform actual transmission investment and development?

WestTEC's value is already being proven out, with direct feeds into….

STATE POLICY & PRIORITIES

Washington Commerce / WETA

State law requires WestTEC-based high-priority transmission corridor identification.

Oregon Department of Energy

Proposes recognizing WestTEC projects as strategic state priorities for siting and support.

Wyoming Energy Authority

Statewide transmission study anticipates alignment with WestTEC planning assumptions.

UTILITY & RESOURCE PLANNING

BPA Transmission Planning

Using WestTEC 10-year PCM and power-flow datasets as expansion-study starting models.

Northwest Power Council

Using 10-year projects to inform the Ninth Power Plan transmission buildout.

Portland General Electric

Screening projects through IRP modeling and seeking evaluation through NorthernGrid.

COORDINATION & INDUSTRY UPTAKE

Western Governors & PACT

Endorsed WestTEC findings and launched a multistate permitting coordination initiative.

California ISO

References WestTEC results in its approved TPP and interregional planning discussions.

RMI

Tracks the status of 105 WestTEC projects and identifies actions to advance delivery.

TWTC

Pursuing projects that have strong alignment with needs identified in WestTEC 10- and 20-year assessments

WestTEC is establishing itself as a credible interconnection-wide planning forum, with models, findings, and projects proliferating across industry.

WestTEC
POWERED BY WPP

WestTEC 2.0 Discussion



Overall direction for WestTEC 2.0

WAG: Technical scope

Retain the West-wide study framework. Improve reference-case credibility, weather modeling and the usefulness of results.

WAG: Governance and engagement

Retain the three committees and technical independence. Clarify accountability and provide sustained participation support.

CREPC-TC survey: Preliminary direction

Respondents favor the TC liaison model. Most lean toward advisory plus decisional influence, with views sensitive to FERC planning use.

Technical 1: Core framework

Retain from WestTEC 1.0
West-wide transmission focus, 10- and 20-year horizons, and the established technical methods.

Refine for WestTEC 2.0
Clarify local and lower-voltage boundaries. Coordinate with regional planning and FERC Order No. 1920 processes.

Strength of support
Nearly all survey respondents favored retaining both horizons.

Technical 2: Reference case

Retain from WestTEC 1.0
Utility IRPs, regional transmission plans and established planning sources remain the starting point.

Change for WestTEC 2.0
Apply stronger project-maturity criteria for planned transmission. Improve large-load forecasts and public power and Tribal inputs.

Strongest mandate for change
Most favored stricter planned-project inclusion. Exact criteria still require development.



Technical 3: Modeling

Retain from WestTEC 1.0
The core production-cost, capacity-expansion and transmission-analysis framework.

Change for WestTEC 2.0
Represent more weather conditions and update emerging-resource assumptions. Evaluate additional scenarios against their costs.

Support varies by enhancement
Weather variability is a major priority.



Technical 4: Useful results

Retain from WestTEC 1.0
Identify credible transmission needs and potential solutions that others can advance through subsequent processes.

Enhance for WestTEC 2.0
Explain solution drivers, dependencies and feasibility more clearly. Explore regional or portfolio-level benefit information.

Scope boundary
Some concerned that detailed state- or project-level benefits raise cost and regulatory concerns. Binding project cost allocation remains outside this study role.



Technical 5: Project tracking

Retain from WestTEC 1.0

WestTEC remains a planning and analytical effort. Project sponsors and other responsible bodies advance implementation.

New capability for WestTEC 2.0

Consider a low-cost dashboard tracking progress on identified transmission solutions between study cycles.

Purpose and remaining choice

Use project status to inform future studies and show whether needs are being addressed. Define scope, ownership and update costs.

Governance 1: Durability

WAG: Retain from WestTEC 1.0

A collaborative West-wide planning effort supported by regional participants.

WAG: Change for WestTEC 2.0

Create a durable recurring function with predictable funding and a reliable schedule. Evaluate a fixed cycle versus studies as needed.

CREPC-TC survey: Scope needs clarity

The summary contains no institutional or cadence preference. Respondents seek clarity on WestTEC 2.0 and its potential FERC planning use.

Governance 2: Authority

WAG: Retain from WestTEC 1.0

Steering makes final decisions, WATT leads technical work and REC advises. Preserve consensus seeking and equal entity votes.

WAG: Refine for WestTEC 2.0

Clarify approval boundaries, review deadlines and escalation. The existing 75% voting backstop already supports decisions.

CREPC-TC survey: Broader influence

Most respondents lean toward a mix of advisory and decisional weight. This does not establish support for state/provincial Steering votes.



Governance 3: State/provincial role

WAG: Retain from WestTEC 1.0

Use the CREPC Transmission Collaborative liaison relationship as the primary engagement channel.

WAG: Strengthen for WestTEC 2.0

Identify state/provincial contacts and defined input points for scenarios and major decisions. Design participation around staff capacity.

CREPC-TC survey: Liaison alignment

Respondents generally favor the TC liaison model. Some want discussion of a dedicated state body. FERC planning use could change views.



Governance 4: Participation

WAG: Retain from WestTEC 1.0

Broad sector participation and an advisory REC that brings stakeholder perspectives into the process.

WAG: Strengthen for WestTEC 2.0

Improve sector outreach and Tribal engagement. Evaluate REC composition and participation support with affected groups.

CREPC-TC survey: Support and inclusion

Participation/travel funding received some selections. Provinces raise concerns about provincial engagement and WestTEC's relevance and value.



Governance 5: Transparency

WAG: Retain from WestTEC 1.0

Open REC meetings and public webinars, with protections for confidential or sensitive information.

WAG: Potential additions for 2.0

Document decision reasons and advisory input. Evaluate written comment periods, a comment matrix and responses at key points.

CREPC-TC survey: Coordination support

Decision summaries and support for joint state/province positions each received 4 selections. Views on needing a consensus position are mixed.



WAG and state survey views

WAG conclusion	CREPC-TC survey	Relationship
Recurring institution	Institution/cadence preference not reported	Not resolved
Committee authority	Advisory plus decisional influence	Potential difference
CREPC TC liaison	Continue liaison model	Broad alignment
Meaningful participation	Funding support and provincial inclusion	Added priorities
Transparency	Decision summaries and position support	Aligned

CREPC-TC survey: Distinct Findings

Decision influence

Most respondents lean toward advisory plus decisional weight. The preferred form and decisions covered remain undefined.

Provincial inclusion and value

Provinces raise a distinct concern about inclusion and relevance. U.S. respondents generally appear satisfied with 1.0 engagement.

FERC use changes preferences

Respondents say FERC-required planning use would change their views somewhat to substantially. Views on a consensus state/province position are mixed.



Choices still open

Technical scope and cost

Project-inclusion criteria, added scenarios, benefits detail, tracking design and the fallback study horizon need further evaluation.

Governance and funding

Study cadence, Steering eligibility, funding obligations and safeguards for balanced representation remain unresolved.

Implication of CREPC-TC

Respondents say FERC planning use would change views. WAG's Order No. 1920 work group should clarify intended use before roles are finalized.



CREPC TC discussion

Survey issue: Decision influence
Which decisions need defined state/provincial influence, and what form should that influence take?

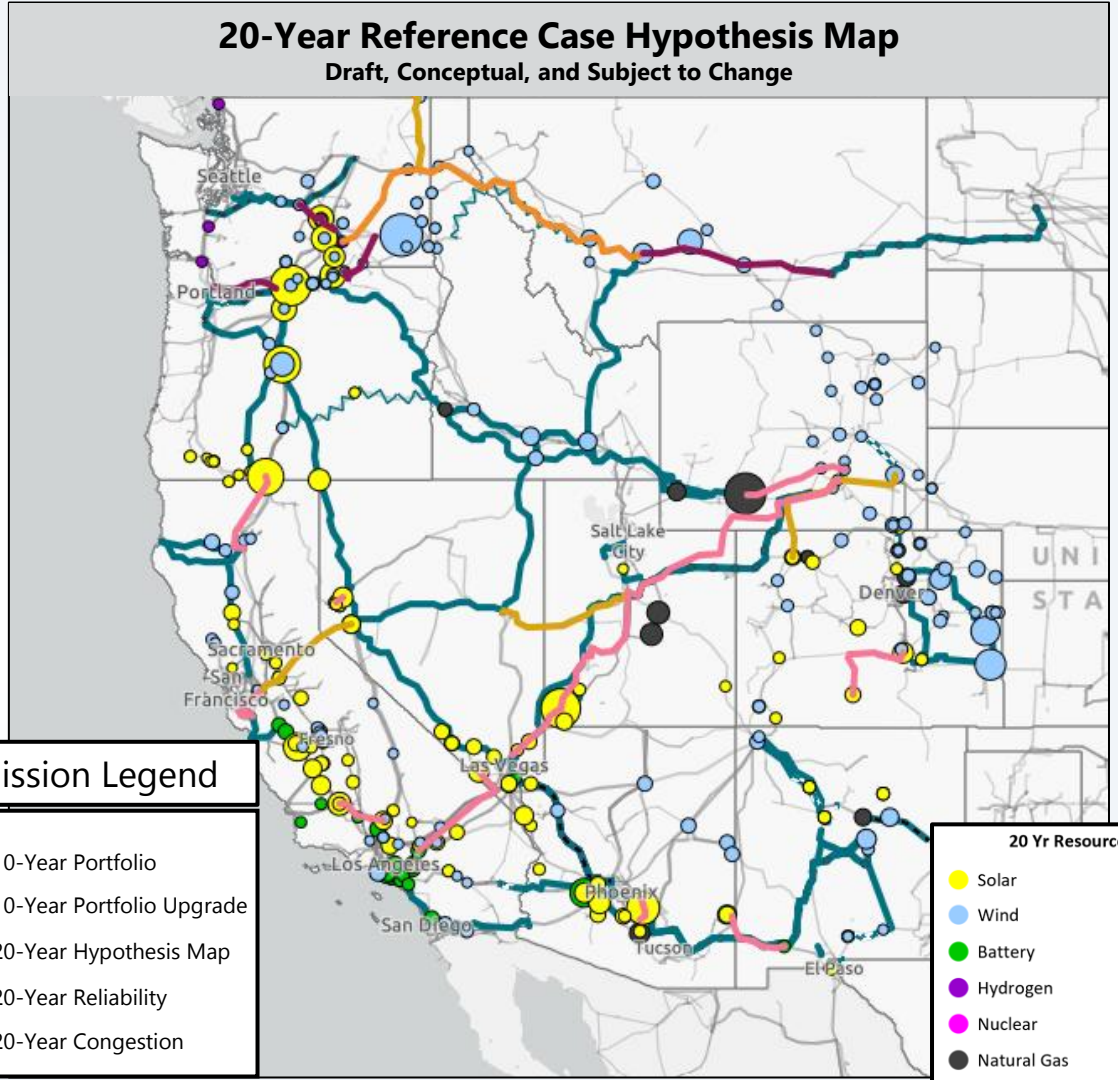
Survey issue: Participation support
Can the TC liaison model meet these needs with dedicated support? What would a separate state body add?

Survey issue: FERC use and provincial value
How would FERC planning use change expectations? What would make WestTEC more useful to provinces and jurisdictions still missing?



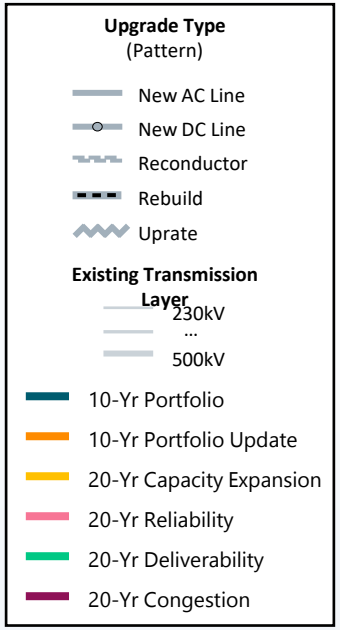
WestTEC 1.0: Additional Details and Maps

Key Assumptions Driving Transmission: Resource Locations



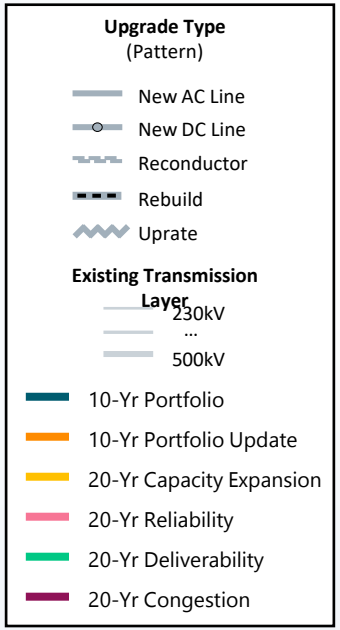
2045 Reference Case Upgrades Map

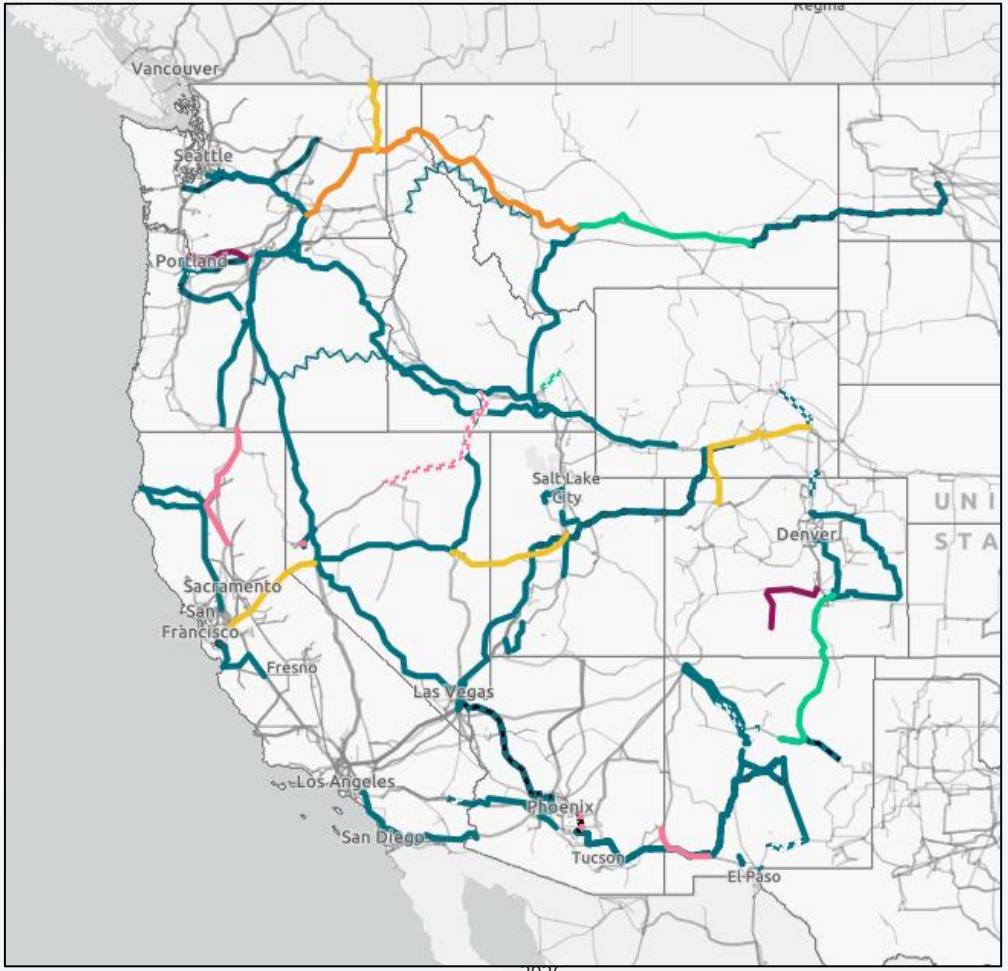
See project list and cost/distance estimates in the appendix.





2045 Core Case Upgrades Map



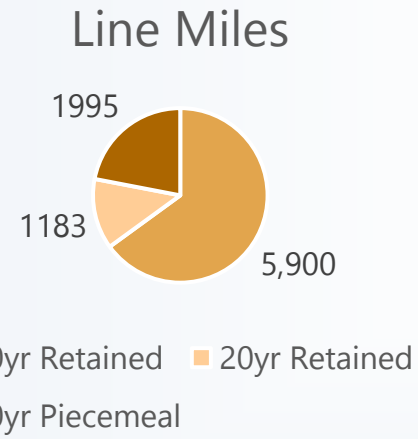


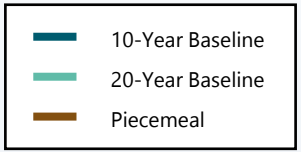
Counterfactual Case Update

- Presented a preliminary counterfactual transmission portfolio at the August All-Committees meeting
- Our team has continued to review the list of projects and updated the counterfactual piecemeal lines with projects from the 20-year reference case, where appropriate.
  - Seeking to represent realistic transmission projects to mitigate the identified issues, where appropriate
- This counterfactual case is still under development and testing
  - Need to finalize Flux scenario modeling to identify "persistent upgrades" before performing final benefit calculation, but will be using Reference + Core results in the interim



2045 Counterfactual Map



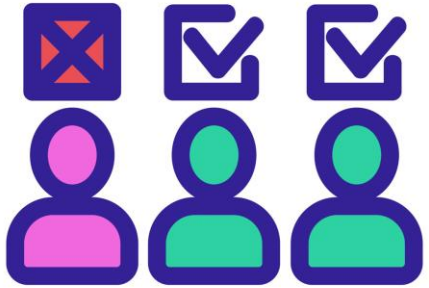




CREPC-TC survey results

Slido survey results

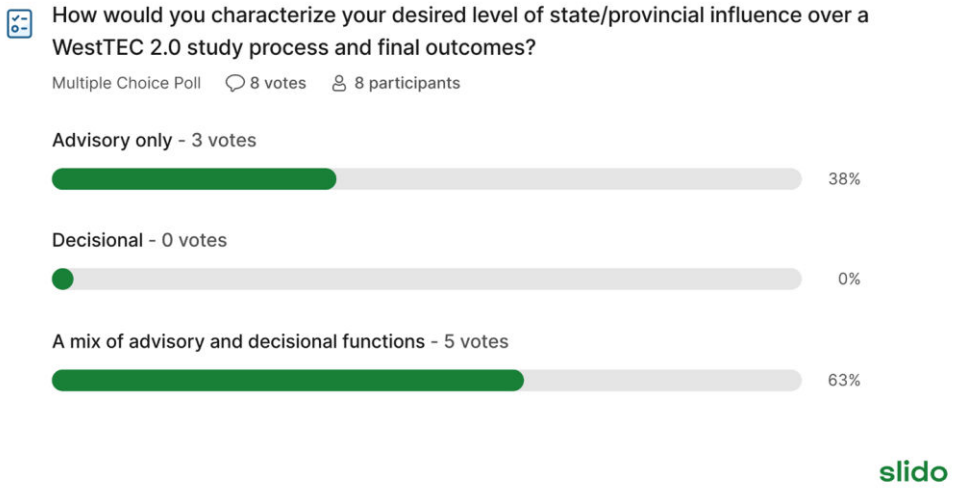
- **Survey purpose:**
  - Identify areas of preliminary alignment, disagreement, and issues requiring further development for a potential WestTEC 2.0 process.
  - Inform discussion, not make final decisions.
- Respondents represented **7 states** and **provinces**, including a **mix of principal actors and staff**.



Slido survey results: level of influence

Points raised:

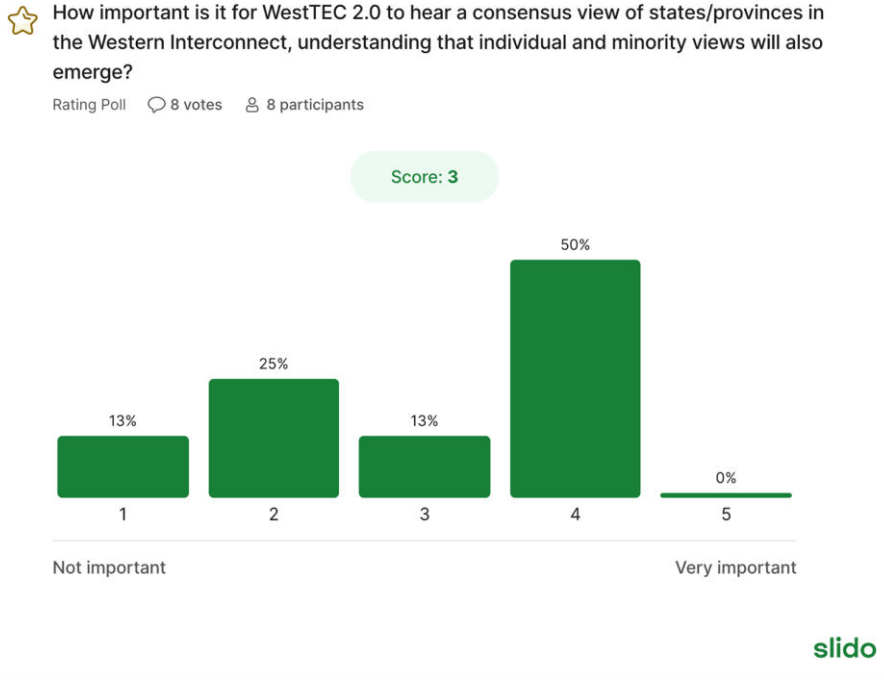
- WestTEC efforts do not seem to consider provincial roles or perspectives
- Where states can agree, there should be room for input to sway decisions
- States may want more decisional input regarding factors/issues state policies are most likely to impact (ex. assumptions on scale and topography of in-state load forecasts or certain in-state supply-side resources)
- Study should remain credible, conducted by experts, and timely
- Concerned about the implications and outcomes of state regulators directing as opposed to guiding the process, particularly In the absence of clear authority



Slido survey results: understanding consensus

Points raised:

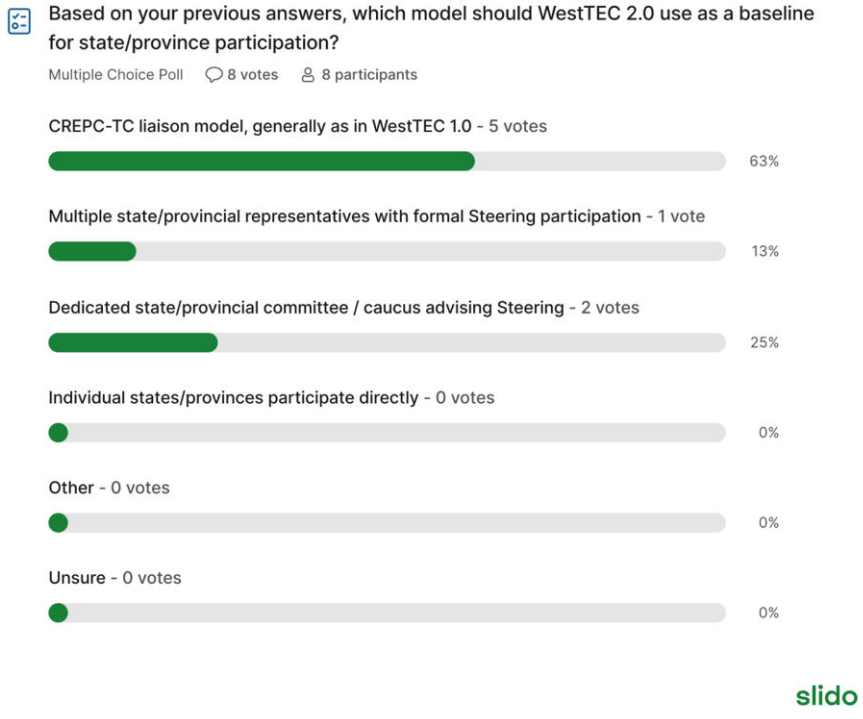
- When states/provinces do not reach consensus:
  - *50% of respondents indicated WestTEC should defer to states/provinces on how to characterize input.*
  - *25% of respondents suggested WestTEC should present both majority and minority positions*
  - Proposal: WestTEC should articulate common ground first and then state/province-specific input/feedback
- Characterizing non-consensus input would benefit from a case-by-case approach—different permutations of minority and majority views may justify different approaches
- States/provinces should be able to characterize their points of agreement and disagreement
- Asking relevant states/provinces to articulate feedback for transmittal prevents nebulous responses that aren't very actionable.



Slido survey results: models of engagement

Points raised:

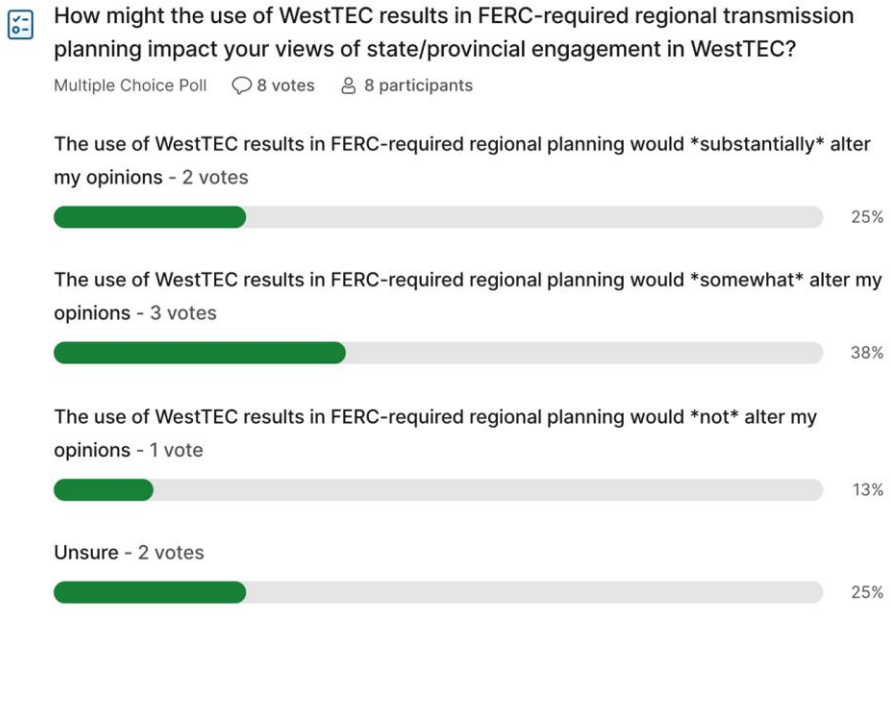
- The CREPC-TC liaison model worked well.
    - However: Did CREPC-TC model provide states with enough opportunity to reflect state views and priorities in the work?
- Interest in further discussion of what a dedicated state committee / caucus advising Steering might look like
    - Could a subgroup of state/provincial actors attend WestTEC meetings and actively monitor?



Slido survey results: FERC regional planning

Points raised:

- The specifics of how WestTEC results might be used to influence a FERC-required regional plan may impact policymaker preferences for how states/provinces are engaged and participate in a WestTEC 2.0 study:
    - How would WestTEC results fit into or be used by planning region processes (NorthernGrid, WestConnect, CAISO)?
    - Would WestTEC results be merely advisory?
    - Would some certain elements of a WestTEC study be formally adopted/included in a planning region transmission analysis?
    - Would the planning regions be caretakers for studies they did not create?



Discussion

- What should be the role of state/provincial policymakers (regulators and energy offices) in WestTEC 2.0?
- What infrastructure is needed to support that role for states and provinces?



Next Steps & Action Items

- TC returning to monthly schedule
  - Next meeting will be on November 13 and may feature a draft preview of the WestTEC 20-year study as well as potential updates regarding Order No. 1920 state engagement work.
  - The next meeting returns to our virtual format.
- Notes for this meeting will be provided ~one week from today.



Background slides

Reminder of CREPC TC goals

- Create a standing space for CREPC members to work on transmission coordination and development in the West through state and provincial information sharing and exploration of a diversity of Western state and provincial viewpoints, including:
  - Informal review of regional and interregional transmission planning within the Western Interconnect by facilitating state input into **WPP/WestTEC process**, including different scenarios or planning considerations states might want to see. As the WestTEC effort evolves, CREPC TC will monitor to determine if there are any gaps between states' desired goals and expected outcomes, and determine whether other avenues for transmission planning study should be pursued. **— Discussion on-going through 2026.**
  - Consideration of different approaches for sharing the costs associated with multi-state transmission projects by facilitating state input to WIEB's planned cost allocation effort. **— Discussion through 2024 and into 2025; study completed in July.**
  - Analysis of other transmission planning issues as they develop (e.g., the FERC Order 1920). **— Discussion on O. 1920 fall 2024; resulted in formation of 1920 Ad Hoc Committee.**

Transmission discussions at the CREPC TC

