

# Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation

## *Transmission Coordination and Planning*

October 27, 2023

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## Agenda

- Welcome by CREPC Co-Chairs
- Western Transmission Expansion Coalition
  - Concept Paper by WTEC
  - Proposed Comments from CREPC Co-Chairs
- Western States Transmission Initiative
  - Recommendations by Gridworks
  - CREPC Actions
- Other Efforts in Region
- CREPC Next Steps

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## Western Transmission Expansion Coalition

- Idea initiated from Bonneville Power Administration request to Western Power Pool
- Plan is proposed to include regional and inter-regional (West-wide) needs over a 20-year horizon
- Seeks to create an actionable transmission plan and to allow for collaborative best practice approaches to meet transmission needs in the most reliable, efficient, and economic way, including portfolio analysis of different potential solutions
- Intention is to create a long-term, durable solution that continues beyond a single planning cycle
- Study will use an independent consultant to conduct analysis

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## WTEC Proposed Committees

- **Steering Committee**
  - Makes major decisions to structure the transmission plan and collaborate with other committees. Topics that fall under this committee include selecting an independent consultant, identifying renewable energy zones, resource expansion, electrification and load data, and scenario development.
  - Includes a spot for State representation on the committee.
  - Members of the Steering Committee automatically have a seat on the Technical Task Force.
- **Technical Task Force**
  - Works with independent consultant to identify scope and design details prior to Steering Committee approval.
  - In addition to the steering committee members, membership will include the independent consultant, PNNL, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, and merchant/independent transmission developers.
- **Regional Engagement Committee**
  - Provides feedback on the approach for the transmission plan and reviews proposals, scopes of work for technical studies, and draft plans.
  - Includes slots for two State representatives.

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## Proposed CREPC Comments on WTEC

- CREPC is overall supportive of effort.
- Footprint should be West-Wide, and analysis should be balanced and inclusive of all Western Interconnection states and provinces.
- WTEC should collaborate with CREPC as much as possible to avoid duplication of efforts, strive to meet shared goals and objectives, and streamline consultant work.
- All proposed committees should allow the states and provinces flexibility to determine their representatives.
- CREPC is willing to work with WPP and WTEC to find funding for states to have full representation in the process.

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## WTEC Discussion

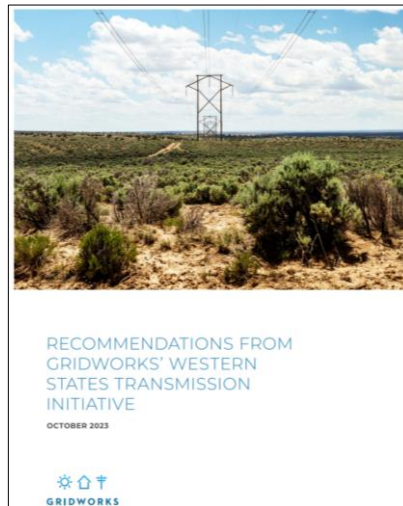
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## Western States Transmission Initiative

“WSTI was facilitated and led by Gridworks for the benefit of CREPC members.

The West’s current bottoms-up approach to transmission planning and development does not effectively evaluate the relative merits of interregional and intraregional transmission opportunities, nor their relative merits compared with intrastate alternatives; this approach has never resulted in an interregionally planned transmission solution that efficiently and cost-effectively connects energy resources to energy loads. As a result, Western states have an urgent need for power and the transmission to bring that power to load.

The goal of WSTI was to address this challenge by building understanding of transmission issues among Western regulators and state energy policy leaders on CREPC and identifying actionable steps for CREPC to address both opportunities for transmission development across a regional footprint and supporting regulatory and policy underpinnings.”



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## WSTI Process

### • Track 1: Stakeholder Outreach

- May-June 2023
- *Gridworks interviewed approximately 40 different organizations in the West, including state regulators, American and Canadian utilities, independent power producers, tribal entities, and non-governmental organizations, about the state of electric transmission development in the Western Interconnect. These conversations focused primarily on the processes through which transmission projects are planned in the Western Interconnect and potential approaches to allocating the costs of multistate transmission lines.*

### • Track 2: Building CREPC Membership Awareness and Understanding

- July-August 2023
- *Gridworks host a series of informational webinars covering: Transmission Planning; Is more transmission necessary in the West?; and Transmission Cost Allocation.*

### • Track 3: Recommendation Development Working Group

- August-September 2023
- *Gridworks supported a regionally diverse working group of selected state leaders to develop a set of recommendations CREPC could pursue. Recommendations were presented at the Fall 2023 Joint CREPC-WIRAB meeting on October 4, 2023 in Seattle, Washington.*

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# WSTI Primary Recommendations Overview

## A. Form a CREPC Transmission Working Group

CREPC should consider establishing a Working Group and seek U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funding to hire expert staff and consultants to facilitate greater understanding of, and better communication between the states, provinces, and stakeholders in the region on, Western Interconnect transmission topics.

## B. Seek U.S. Department of Energy Assistance to Identify Interregional Transmission Projects

CREPC should hire an outside consulting firm with significant transmission planning experience to provide an investment-grade analysis of significant transmission needs in the Western Interconnect.

## C. State Cost Allocation Coordination

CREPC should support WIEB's efforts to: (1) survey how the costs associated with multistate transmission projects and cross-border transmission projects have been allocated in the Eastern Interconnect and ERCOT (Texas), and (2) facilitate consideration of the best approaches for cost allocation of multistate, including transnational, transmission projects in the Western Interconnect.

## D. Host a Western Transmission Conference

CREPC or a CREPC Transmission Working Group should consider hosting a Western transmission conference.

# WSTI Primary Recommendations

WSTI Gridworks Recommendation Titles	CREPC Actions/Next Steps
A. Form a CREPC Transmission Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CREPC would benefit from additional staff, as recommended, to focus on transmission issues, facilitate better communications, and liaise with the various efforts in the West on behalf of states and provinces, now and into the future.</li> <li><b>Actions:</b> Advance recommendation to WIEB/CREPC leadership to pursue funding opportunities to add capacity in the form of WIEB staff for CREPC to focus on transmission efforts and facilitate transmission work. Ask WIEB/CREPC to develop an action plan to launch a transmission working group.</li> </ul>
B. Seek U.S. Department of Energy Assistance to Identify Interregional Transmission Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Action:</b> Submit comments to WTEC expressing desire for alignment on transmission planning studies and expected outcomes. Request Gridworks coordination with WTEC, on behalf of CREPC and in coordination with CREPC staff, to promote shared goals and outcomes.</li> <li>Monitor WTEC study development to determine if a separate state led effort to identify interregional transmission projects is warranted, or if opportunities exist to augment the WTEC effort to support the intent of this recommendation and needs of the states.</li> </ul>
C. State Cost Allocation Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Cost Allocation Coordination is appropriate for states to lead, timely, and adds value in parallel to other transmission efforts (e.g., WTEC, etc.).</li> <li><b>Action:</b> Advance this recommendation to WIEB/CREPC for implementation.</li> </ul>
D. Host a Western Transmission Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold on this recommendation until planning and cost allocation efforts are underway and staff capacity is improved. Consider adding a focus area for state level actions that are needed and effective to remove barriers to transmission development (e.g., state specific siting, tax policy, etc.).</li> <li><b>Action:</b> Ask CREPC to host regular transmission focused calls/webinars in the interim.</li> </ul>

## Other Transmission Efforts

- WECC Transmission Trends Assessment; Reliability Assessments
  - Due by end of 2023
- Gridworks ConnectedWest Study
  - Some initial scenario results by end of 2023; main study due in April 2024
- DOE Studies: National Transmission Planning; Expanded Markets & Transmission
  - Anticipated by April/May 2024
- NERC Interregional Transfer Capability Study (ITCS)
  - Study to be filed at FERC by December 2, 2024

## CREPC Next Steps

- CREPC Co-Chairs to submit comments to WTEC by October 31, 2023
  - *CREPC Members please submit any comments to Robin Arnold by 1:00 pm MT/12:00 pm PT on Monday October 30, 2023*
- Staff to draft memo for CREPC Members and Co-Chairs memorializing next steps for the WSTI recommendations.
  - *CREPC Members please send any feedback to Laura Rennick by 1:00 pm MT/12:00 pm PT on Friday, November 3, 2023*

# Thank You

*for more information*

Robin Arnold

[rarnold@westernenergyboard.org](mailto:rarnold@westernenergyboard.org)

Laura Rennick

[lrennick@westernenergyboard.org](mailto:lrennick@westernenergyboard.org)

[www.westernenergyboard.org/crepc](http://www.westernenergyboard.org/crepc)