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Transmission Planning in the West
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Today’s Discussion

• What is WECC?
• What is RTEP?
• 2011 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan
• 2013 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan
• 2013 20-Year Regional Transmission Target Plan
• Opportunities for Tribal Participation
Why Transmission Planning?

“My interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there.”
...Charles Kettering
What is WECC?
Transmission Planning at WECC

- Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC)—April, 2006
  - Annual study program
  - Transmission expansion studies
  - Congestion analyses—production cost modeling
Who Does TEPPC Serve?

- State & Provincial Entities
- Environmental Stakeholders
- Transmission Stakeholders
- Tribes
- Other Stakeholders
- Members
RTEP Project

• DOE funding opportunity in 2009
  o $14.5 million over four years
  o Expanded transmission planning activities
  o Coordinated with policy-based project at Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB)

• Primary Deliverables
  o 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan (2011)
  o 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan (2013)
  o 20-Year Regional Transmission Target Plan (2013)
10-Year Plan (2011)

Stakeholder Input
- Biennial Study Cycle
- Open Season

Define Assumptions
- Loads
- Resources
- Transmission

Create Study Cases
- Prioritize
- Perform Analyses

Create Plan
- Stakeholder Review
Recommendations—2011

1. Cost-effective remote renewables
2. Montana-to-Northwest (Path 8)
3. Pacific Tie Paths (Paths 65 and 66)
4. Operational impacts of variable generation
5. Planning cooperation
6. Environmental and cultural considerations
7. Water resource impacts
8. Future regional planning processes
10-Year Plan (2013)

- Revisit 2011 Plan
  - Stakeholder Input

- Create Straw Man
  - Structure
  - Content
  - Process
  - Stakeholder Input

- Perform Analyses
  - Periodic Reporting and Review

- Create Plan
  - Stakeholder Review
New Initiatives Supporting 20-Year Plan

• Scenario planning
  o Alternate feasible futures for the Western Interconnection
  o Implications for transmission
  o Guides strategic choices
WECC Scenarios

Scenario 1: 
To Have and Have Not

Scenario 2: 
The New Frontier

Scenario 3: 
Mothers of Invention

Scenario 4: 
Renewables to the Rescue

Economic Growth in WECC Region

High & Widely Spread

Low & Limited Areas

Evolutionary & Current Patterns

Technological innovation

in electric supply/dist.

Breakthroughs & Paradigm Changing
Environmental/Cultural Analyses

• Preferred data sets
• Land classification system
• Methodology for comparing transmission alternatives
• Exploration of methodologies for assessing economic values of environmental and cultural goods and services
Opportunities for Tribal Participation

• Scenario modeling
  o Policies affecting scenarios
  o Metrics used to model scenarios
• Environmental Data Task Force
  o Impacts on tribal lands
• 10-Year and 20-Year Plan development
  o Key questions
  o Plan content
  o Development process
• Funding for participation is available through 2013
Collaboration is the Key

“Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.” ...Mattie Stepanek
Questions

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