



A coalition of western partners  
is working together to develop  
solutions for transmitting  
reliable and affordable  
electricity to millions of people  
across the West.

The objective of the Western Transmission Expansion Coalition (WestTEC) West-Wide Transmission Study Project (Project) is to produce an actionable transmission study based on transmission portfolios that enhance Western reliability while also considering economic efficiencies and state policy goals.

**This effort is built on four foundational themes:**

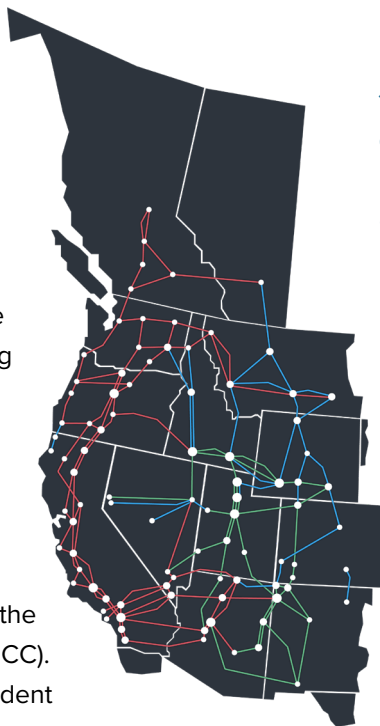
- Transparent
- Inclusive
- Different
- Expedient

## Background

WestTEC represents an unprecedented partnership between diverse sectors of the energy industry, States, and Tribes. The project will address interregional and interstate transmission needs spanning the Western interconnection, including the collective footprint of the existing three regional planning organizations for the West (NorthernGrid, the California Independent System Operator, and WestConnect) as well as interties with Canadian Provinces.

WestTEC is being jointly facilitated by the Western Power Pool (WPP) in partnership with the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC). WPP has hired Energy Strategies, an independent industry consultant to support this effort.

The project developed from an initial Concept Paper posted for public comment in October 2023. Project work began early in 2024 with initial efforts focused on creating the internal governance structure for the effort and a study plan to guide the project. The committee-based governance consists of representatives from a broad array of regional partner interests and from the entire West.



*WestTEC's governance structure consists of three main committees:*

- **Steering:** is the primary decision making arm of WestTEC, responsible for providing direction and guidance to the WATT and collaborating with REC and other committees and key regional partners. Also responsible for communications and soliciting input from the public.
- **WestTEC Assessment Technical Taskforce (WATT):** technical committee charged with development of the study plan and transmission study, and works directly with Energy Strategies, consultant hired for this effort.
- **Regional Engagement (REC):** is the primary regional partner committee, comprised of a broad cross section of sectors, and will provide substantive feedback on study plan and transmission study throughout the project.

## WestTEC Outcomes: 10-year and 20-year Transmission Study

WestTEC’s scope includes planning analysis across the Western Interconnection to develop 10-year and 20-year transmission studies, which provide a high-quality, high-confidence foundation for future transmission build decisions and actions that can be undertaken by industry. The studies will contain “actionable” recommendations designed to lead to construction of transmission projects that improve the reliability and efficiency of the power grid.

### The goals for the study include:

- Develop actionable portfolios
- Ensure reliability
- Improve efficiency
- Increase affordability
- Enhance visibility and coordination
- Provide granular information on costs and benefits
- Ensure fairness

### The study will be used to:

- Inform planning
- Facilitate development
- Engage partners
- Evaluate benefits
- Guide decisions
- Optimize siting
- Assist regulators

## Methodology

With robust stakeholder input provided through its inclusive governance structure, WestTEC has developed a rigorous 10-step study methodology.

### [Watch our video series](#)

exploring each of these steps.

WestTEC does not seek to address cost-allocation, permitting, or siting, however, commits to future collaboration with regional partners, States and Tribes as these challenging elements are considered.

## Goals and Objectives

Facing load growth, a changing resource mix, extreme weather and other challenges, WestTEC sought a new region-wide transmission planning framework to support the needs of the future energy grid.

The resulting plan would help resolve grid capability, reliability and resiliency challenges such as capacity, efficiency, congestion, affordability, visibility and coordination.

## Milestones/Timeline

### *WestTEC Timeline/ Major Milestones:*

**Study Plan finalized and posted:**  
*September 1, 2024*

**10-Year Horizon Study:**  
*September 2024 – February 2026*

- Draft report provided for review/ comment in Nov/Dec 2025
- Quarterly public webinars
- Monthly REC meetings open to public
- Published February 2026

**20-Year Horizon Study:**  
*June 2025 – November 2026*

- Draft report provided for review/ comment in July 2026
- Quarterly public webinars
- Monthly REC meetings open to public