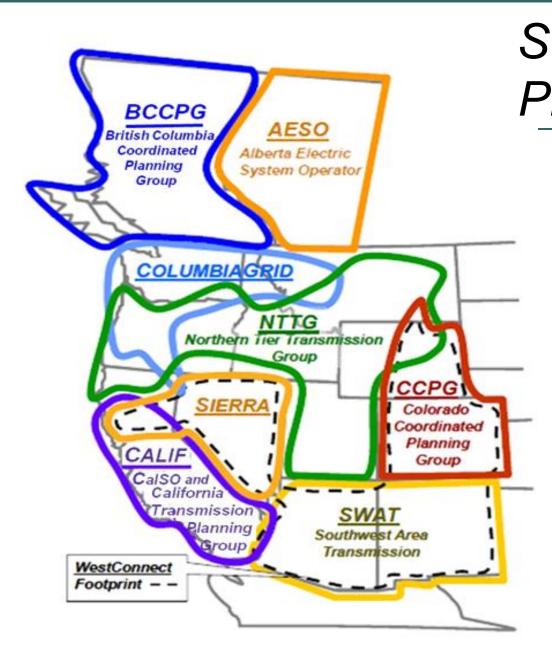


## **Bradley Nickell Director of Transmission Planning – WECC**

Western Interconnection
Planning in the Western Interconnection
DOE Congestion Study Workshop
December 13, 2011







## Planning Information in the West Good information to draw from

- WECC Regional Transmission Plan
  - o High level, interconnection-wide
- Subregional Planning Group plans
  - o Detailed plans, reliability centered
- State and provincial regulatory activities
  - What's being submitted and approved
- Utility plans (transmission, resource)
  - Local needs from the load service perspective



# Transmission Congestion Understanding transmission's value propositions

- Risk: Is the load able to access generation necessary to keep the lights on?
- Value: Is economic generation able to access loads?
- Utilization: At what level is the transmission line being used?





### WECC Congestion Information

## Congestion Information Collected for each WECC Path Displayed on Congestion "Dashboard"

#### **Past Congestion**

TEPPC Transmission
 Path Utilization Study
 Reports

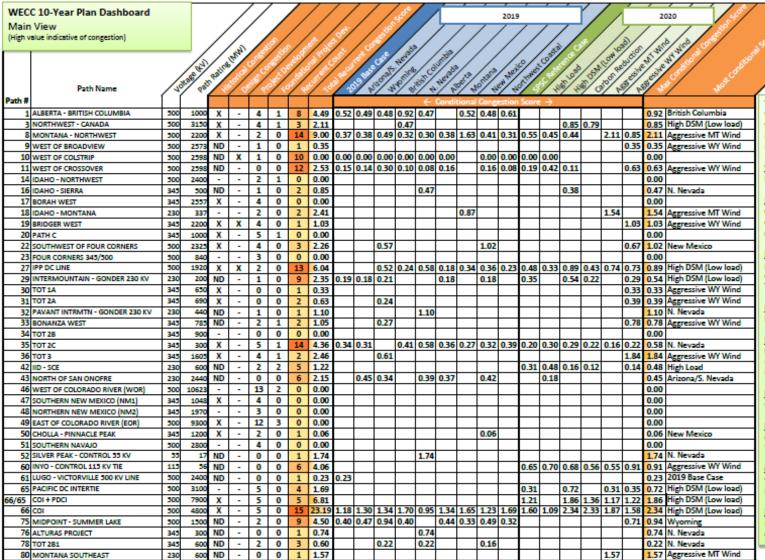
#### **Present Need**

- Project development information from:
- -SCG Common Case Transmission Assumptions (CCTA)
- -WECC Transmission Project Information Portal

#### **Future Congestion**

- •TEPPC study case results
- •NERC LTRA





WECC

The WECC 10-Year Plan Dashboard brings together information on past, present, and future transmission utilization and congestion information to help TEPPC identify potential network needs in the 10-year time frame.

Voltage: The highest voltage, in kV, of the set of lines defined by the path.

<u>Path Rating</u>: The maximum path transfer capability, in MWs, of the path's predominant direction as defined by the WECC path rating catalog.

<u>Historical Congestion</u>: An "X" denotes that the path was identified as one of the 10 most contested paths in one of the three most recent TEPPC path congestion reports.

Design Congestion: An "X" denotes the path is highly utilized by design.

<u>Project Development</u>: Indicates the number of known transmission projects that directly cross, run parallel to the path or may have a direct or indirect impact on the path.

Recurrent Count: The number of study cases where the path met the utilization screening test.

<u>Recurrent Congestion Score</u>: The sum of the conditional congestion scores. Helps to identify "chronic" congestion.

<u>Conditional Congestion Score</u>: The sum of the value, risk, and utilization scores for that scenario.

Max Conditional Congestion Score: The maximum Conditional Congestion Score, considering all cases, for that path.

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# Connecting DOE to WECC What does WECC want to see in the Study?

- Comparability to previous DOE studies
  - O What drove the change?
- Comparability to studies in the West
  - Explanation of variances.
- Use the most current information available
- Focus on congestion that limits optionality to access reliable, cost-effective resources to serve future needs



### Things to Consider

- What message will the Congestion Study send the industry?
- How will the Congestion Study support (or not) other planning activities?
- When will the Congestion Study be published and how does this coincide with other activities?



### Questions

