**Transmission and Distribution Plan Template**

This template is meant to serve as a resource for states to complete a transmission and distribution (T&D) plan that meets the mandatory conduct of activities to support T&D planning, as stated by the State Energy Program regulations (as described in C.F.R. Part 420.15 minimum criteria for required program activities for plans) including:

1. support for local governments and Indian Tribes.
2. feasibility studies for transmission line routes and alternatives.
3. preparation of necessary project design and permits.
4. outreach to affected stakeholders.
5. Support for local governments and Indian Tribes:

*State X plans to meet this requirement by participating in regional planning processes conducted through a Regional Transmission Organization, utilities, or other organizations.*

*State Z will meet this requirement by ensuring T&D topics are discussed within the state’s existing energy planning process.*

1. Feasibility studies for transmission line routes and alternatives:

*State X plans to meet this requirement by hiring new staff or dedicating existing staff time to support T&D feasibility studies for generation or interconnection.*

*State Y is already meeting this requirement by ensuring existing T&D feasibility studies account for impacts in communities defined by the state as disadvantaged.*

*State Z plans to meet this requirement by commissioning, or working with an organization to commission, T&D feasibility studies identifying routes and alternatives.*

1. Preparation of necessary project design and permits:

*State X is already meeting this requirement. Last year State X secured the necessary permits resulting in interconnection of two new energy projects, and in doing so, ensured engagement of community-based organizations historically underrepresented in T&D planning processes.[[1]](#footnote-1)*

*State Y will leverage no-cost DOE tools or resources to support local government needs around permitting, planning/zoning, environmental review, and other barriers related to T&D.*

*State Z will hire additional staff, or contract out to support the necessary permitting work for T&D applications. This additional staffing will be aimed at carrying out the necessary work required for permitting in a timely manner.*

1. Outreach to affected stakeholders:

*State X is meeting this requirement by conducting community engagement meetings with vulnerable communities as part of the state’s energy planning process.*

*State Y is meeting this requirement through its regional planning organization or other planning entity stakeholder outreach process.*

States are encouraged to submit T&D plans to SEP that: 1) define new or enhanced activities and 2) clearly document how state priorities are aligned with T&D planning efforts in the state or geographical region. The examples above are for illustrative purposes and the use of this template is optional. States should work with their project officers and/or other DOE staff to address any questions or concerns prior to submission of a T&D plan, including requests for technical assistance.

The changing landscape of T&D due to weather events and climate policies is putting a renewed emphasis on the need for T&D planning. It is understandable that each state is at a different place in this process given the resiliency needs and climate goals. DOE would like to understand where there is a need to help states in this planning process. Please provide areas where DOE could help provide financial and analytical assistance for state T&D planning, with an emphasis in multi-state planning activities.

1. *States are encouraged to include T&D-related activities including those in support of the Justice40 Initiative which establishes a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments in climate and clean energy infrastructure flow to disadvantaged communities.* The Justice40 initiative was created by E.O. 14008, which directed the Office of Management and Budget to publish, in coordination with other federal agencies, recommendations for how 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. OMB subsequently issued interim guidance that includes examples of benefits and indicators for identifying disadvantaged communities (see [*https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf*](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf))." [↑](#footnote-ref-1)