

National Transmission Planning: Promoting Clean Energy and the Next Generation of our National Infrastructure



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DOE INITIATIVES



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2012 Triennial Congestion Study

- Use existing studies to ID congestion
- Narrower areas of congestion
- Public Input:
 - December workshops in San Diego, Portland, Philadelphia and St. Louis
 - Written comments due to congestionstudy2012@hq.doe.gov by 30 March 2012
 - <http://energy.gov/oe/services/electricity-policy-coordination-and-implementation/transmission-planning/national-0>
- DOE/FERC collaboration



Designation of National Corridors - 2013

- Will identify potential project areas
- Will publish request for information or solicit statements of interest before beginning designation process
- Only if parties are interested in resolving congestion within a potential project area will DOE proceed with considering a designation.
- DOE/FERC Collaboration



Interconnection Wide Planning Initiative

- Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Awards made for projects in the Eastern Interconnect, Western Interconnect and ERCOT
- Cover two broad topic areas: 1) Interconnection level analysis and planning, 2) Cooperation among states on electric resource planning and priorities
- Coordination expected among the awardees in each interconnect
- Fundamental purpose of topic 2 is to facilitate dialogue and collaboration among the states in the respective interconnections



EXTERNAL INITIATIVES



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Western Renewable Energy Zones

- Phase I report released on 15 June 2009
- First steps towards identifying those areas in the Western Interconnection that have both:
 1. The potential for large-scale development of renewable resources, and
 2. Low environmental impacts
- Phase I developed information and analytic tools to assist PUCs, energy and transmission developers, utilities and others working to bring more renewable energy online



California Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative

- Statewide initiative to help identify the transmission projects needed to accommodate the state's renewable energy goals, support future energy policy and facilitate transmission corridor designation, as well as transmission and generation siting and permitting.
- Operate as a stakeholder planning collaborative involving a broad range of participants
- Information informs generation and transmission planning efforts at the CAISO, CPUC, CEC and publicly-owned utilities



California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Initiated by Executive Order #S-14-08 to serve as a major component of California's renewable energy planning efforts
- When complete, the DRECP is expected to provide binding, long-term endangered species permitting assurances while facilitating the review and approval of renewable energy projects in the Mojave and Colorado deserts
- Oversight and implementation by the Renewable Energy Action Team formed through a multi-agency MOU
- Monthly meetings with a focus on both generation and transmission
- <https://www.drecp.org>



DOE/DOI Solar PEIS

- Co-lead by DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and DOI's Bureau of Land Management
- Purpose:
 1. Evaluate utility-scale solar energy development
 2. Develop and implement agency-specific programs or guidance that would establish environmental policies and mitigation strategies for solar energy projects
 3. Amend relevant BLM land use plans with the consideration of establishing a new BLM Solar Energy Program
- <https://solareis.anl.gov>

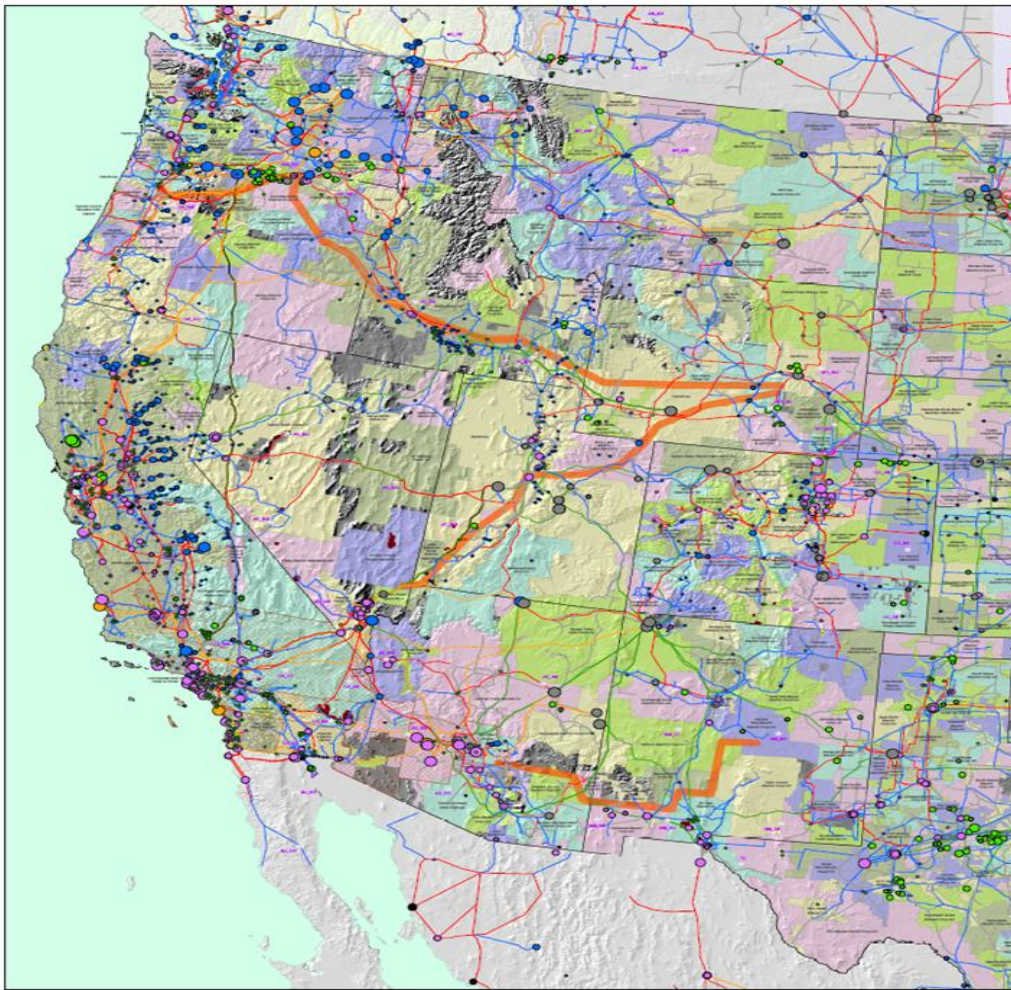




WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



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Existing Electricity Generation and Transmission in the Western United States



This map was produced by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy
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NREL
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY



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Project Development: AZ, CA & NV

Background: Multiple initiatives have moved the needle only so far towards getting steel in the ground.

- Western Renewable Energy Zones Initiative
- California Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative
- DOE/DOI Solar PEIS
- WECC – TEPPC and RTEP
- Others

Next Steps:

- Identify reasons why LSEs are making the purchasing decisions they are making.
 - Permitting times?
 - Cost: in-state vs. out-of-state?
 - Uncertainty around multi-state transmission lines?
 - Project size: large vs. small utility-scale?



THANK YOU. QUESTIONS?



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