Western Governors' Transmission Permitting Alignment & Coordination Task Force (PACT) – A Multi-State Task Force to Accelerate Transmission Permitting

Lindsey Mayer, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Janea Scott, Senior Fellow at Gridworks

NV Governor's Task Force Meeting November 6, 2026

GRIDWORKS

Twelve States, One Grid

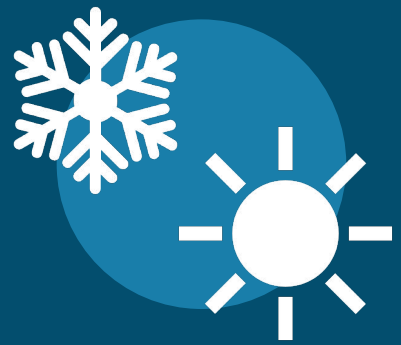
WestTEC is the “what”

The Permitting Alignment and Collaboration Task Force (PACT) is the “how”



Regional Transmission Expansion Can Unlock Billion-Dollar Economic Opportunities

Increased resilience and savings from **extreme weather events**



Increased investment opportunity in the West



Increased **sharing enabled by load and supply diversity**



The Western Interconnection Stands at a Pivotal Moment

1

Rising Grid Pressures

Rapid electrification, data-center growth, extreme weather, and **aging infrastructure** are putting major stress on the grid.

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2

Fragmented Transmission

Yet, transmission planning currently operates in silos, divided among **more than 30 Balancing Authorities.**

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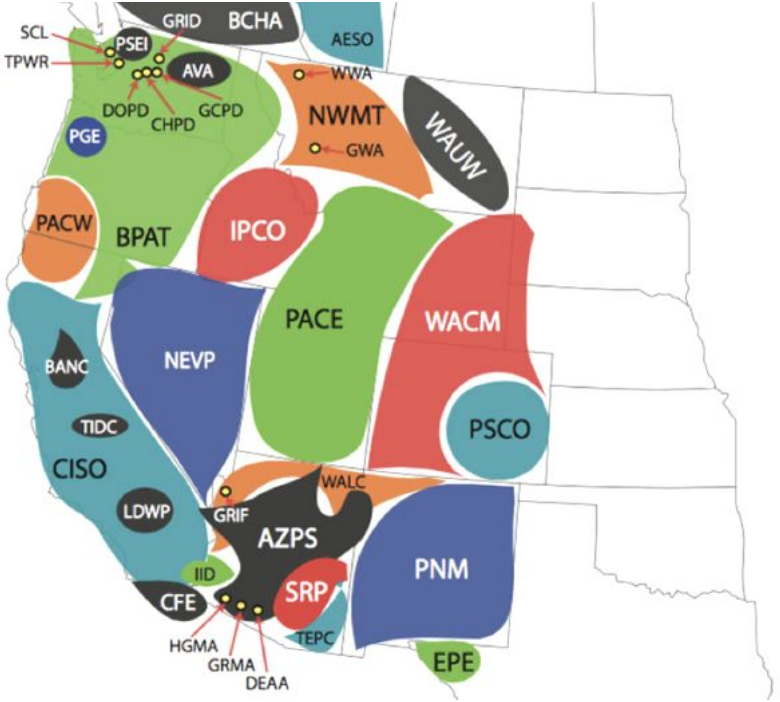
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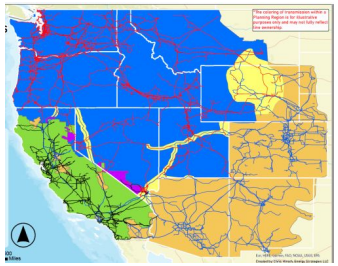
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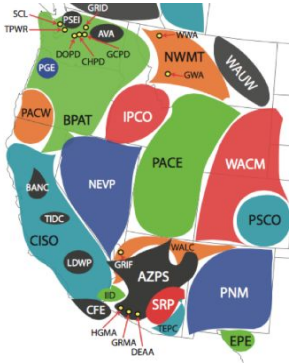


The West: We Excel Separately, *Theoretically*





3 Transmission Planning Regions



38 Balancing Authorities

WestTEC: We Envision Shared Transmission





Western Transmission Expansion Coalition “WestTEC”

WestTEC Transmission Footprint



- ***The only industry-led interregional transmission analysis***
- ***West-wide 10 and 20-year transmission study***
- ***Unprecedented regional partner inclusion***
- ***Goal is to produce an actionable transmission study***

GRIDWORKS

WestTEC Regional Partners – 70+

- Western Interstate Energy Board
- GridWorks
- Western Electricity Coordinating Council
- Connected Grid Initiative
- Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate
- Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Grid United
- Clean Energy Buyers Association
- Amazon Energy
- PacifiCorp
- Puget Sound Energy
- Portland General Electric
- Renewable Northwest
- Snohomish PUD
- Tucson EPC
- Grant County PUD
- *Western Power Pool*
- *GDS Consulting*

- Washington Department of Commerce
- Interwest Energy Alliance
- Invenergy
- Idaho Power Company
- NorthWestern Energy
- NV Energy
- Salt River Project
- Arizona Public Service
- Public Service Company of New Mexico
- Western Area Power Administration
- WestConnect
- NRDC
- Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition
- Public Power Council
- Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
- LS Power
- Tacoma Power
- New Mexico RETA

- Northwest Requirements Utilities
- PNGC
- Western Resource Advocates
- Clean Energy Transition Institute
- NW Energy Coalition
- From the Light Consulting
- Navajo Transitional Energy Company
- Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises
- Avangrid Renewables
- EDF Renewables
- Aypa Power
- Grid Strategies
- PG&E
- Southern California Edison
- Seattle City Light
- Black Hills Energy
- LADWP
- GridLab
- The Public Generating Pool

- California ISO
- Southwest Power Pool
- Avista
- Xcel Energy
- Powerex
- BC Hydro
- GridLiance
- Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee
- Pattern Energy
- Cascade Renewable Transmission
- Chelan County PUD
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- Whatcom County PUD
- Savion
- *E3*
- *Energy Strategies*

ROUTE FIFTY

Why a Power Line Project Can Take 14 Years to Permit

CNBC

Why it's so hard to build new electrical transmission lines in the U.S.

PUBLISHED TUE, FEB 21 2023·1:23 PM EST | UPDATED WED, FEB 22 2023·4:51 PM EST

Sightline INSTITUTE

The High Cost of Slow Permitting

Sluggish approval of Cascadian transmission projects inflates electricity bills and strands renewable energy.

E&E NEWS By POLITICO

ENERGYWIRE

Western transmission line breaks ground after 18-year wait

By JASON PLAUTZ | 06/21/2023 06:42 AM EDT

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm traveled to Wyoming to hail the project and call for faster electric transmission development.



Harvard Business School

Institute for Business in Global Society

Climate Economic Mobility Inequality Purpose of the Firm AI & Society About the Institute

Permitting gridlock threatens America's energy future

Bloomberg

U.S. Permitting Delays Hold Back Economy, Cost Jobs



AMERICANS for PROSPERITY

ABOUT ISSUES STATE CHAPTERS NEWSROOM

Permitting Purgatory: Higher Prices, Thousands of Lost Jobs, and Billions in Missed Economic Opportunity

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OPINION

The TransWest Express transmission line is a win for rural communities. Why did approval take 15 years?

Permitting Alignment and Coordination Task Force (PACT)

- Governor-led regional forum and framework for state leadership on transmission permitting
- Forum to coordinate state and local permitting of regional transmission lines, share and develop best practices, and provide access to resources & expertise
- Established in a Joint Agreement signed by 12 Western State Governors (June 2026)





Western Transmission Joint Statement of Agreement
For a Stronger, More Connected Western Grid

Purpose and Background

Reliable, affordable electricity is essential to economic growth, energy security, and competitiveness across the American West. The region's aging grid and rapidly rising demand from electrification, population growth, extreme weather events, and economic expansion are placing increasing pressure on transmission infrastructure. Expanding and modernizing transmission is one of the most cost-effective ways to strengthen reliability, reduce congestion, stabilize rates, and protect against wildfires, cybersecurity threats, and extreme weather.

Investing in a well-connected western grid is the key to unlocking the diverse energy generation resources in the West and meeting the goals of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) Energy Superabundance Chair initiative. The West can implement a truly "all of the above" energy strategy, which will protect ratepayers, strengthen reliability, and support continued economic prosperity across the region.

Western states share an interconnected grid that is ripe for strategic expansion led by the states, who already play a central role in transmission siting, permitting, environmental review, and coordination with counties, utilities, and local stakeholders. Many delays affecting transmission projects arise from fragmented processes, limited staffing resources, and insufficient coordination across jurisdictions. By improving coordination, aligning processes where appropriate, and dedicating staff resources to regional collaboration, states can significantly improve the pace and predictability of transmission development without requiring changes to federal or state law.

Therefore, as outlined below, we write to express our strong, collective support for the Western Transmission Expansion Coalition (WestTEC) and its roadmap for expanding transmission infrastructure across the western United States, with its findings serving as a model to catalyze discussion and improve coordination across the states. We also commit to establishing a western transmission task force to accelerate transmission permitting.

A Plan Built on Collaboration

As Western Governors, we acknowledge the urgent need for expanded transmission infrastructure across the region to ensure residents and businesses continue to receive reliable, affordable energy critical to health, safety, and economic vitality. States across the West have

Signed on June 30, 2026:

Spencer Cox
Governor of Utah

Jared Polis
Governor of Colorado

Mark Gordon
Governor of Wyoming

Joe Lombardo
Governor of Nevada

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

Tina Kotek
Governor of Oregon

Greg Gianforte
Governor of Montana

Kelly Armstrong
Governor of North Dakota

Katie Hobbs
Governor of Arizona

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico

Bob Ferguson
Governor of Washington

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Signed on July 17, 2026

Proposed Two-Track Structure for PACT

PACT

TRACK 1 | ALL-STATE COLLABORATION



Regular all-state meetings to:

- Share resources and best practices
- Identify state priorities and needs

TRACK 2 | PROJECT-SPECIFIC COORDINATION

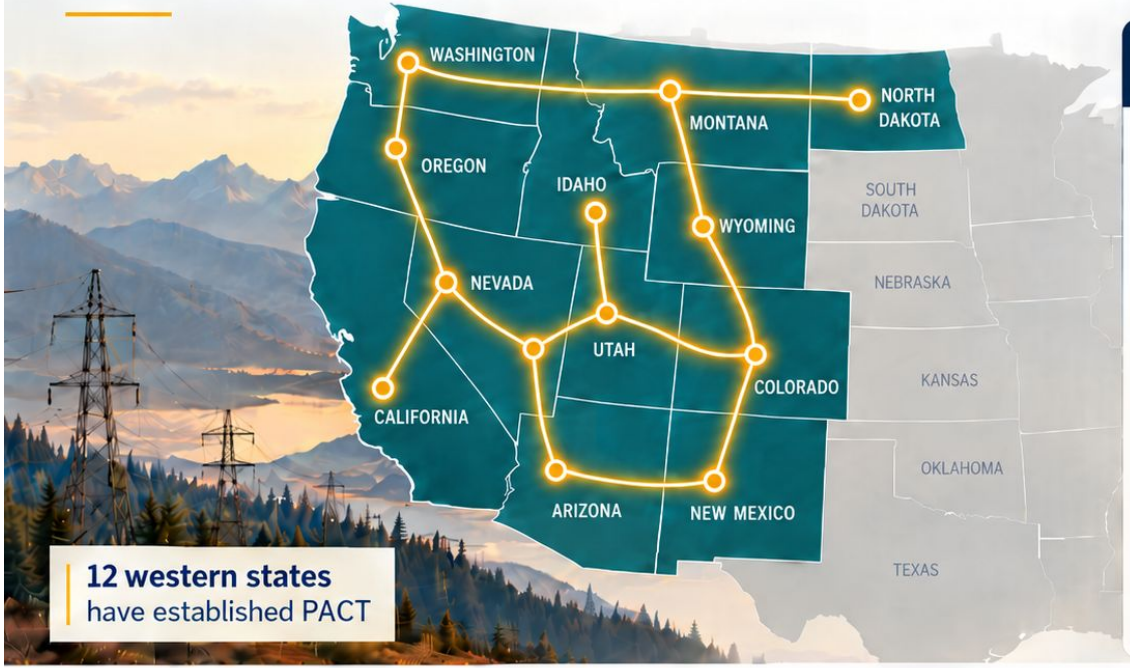


Task force convenings for adjacent states working to:

- Facilitate and coordinate permitting
- Advance specific interstate transmission lines

PACT is Ready for Project-Specific Coordination

A state-led framework to help advance interstate transmission permitting in the West



Bring a Line to PACT

Multi-state coordination
Work through a single, state-led framework spanning 12 western states.

Faster issue identification
Surface and discuss key issues early across relevant states.

Earlier alignment on permitting challenges
Build shared understanding of cross-jurisdictional considerations.

A clear forum for state engagement
Engage directly with the states involved in your project.

1. Developers reach out to PACT to nominate line
2. PACT convenes relevant states
3. States coordinate on cross-jurisdictional permitting issues

PACT is open for business

How to reach us:

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- Matt Henry: mhenry@gridworks.org
- Caroline Mackleby: cmackleby@gridworks.org

