

Sarah – Good afternoon.

First and foremost, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on WTEC's Concept Paper for developing an actional West-wide transmission plan.

AES Clean Energy (AES) is an Independent Power Producer (IPP), and commends the Western Power Pool (WPP), the Bonneville Power Administration, and others trying to make the Western Transmission Expansion Coalition (WTEC) a reality.

Below are our responses to the WPP's questions on the Concept Paper:

1. *Does the proposed participation structure properly balance the objectives of inclusivity and expediency? If not, how could it be improved?*

Yes. The intent to collaborate with neighboring regions is clear, however, AES recommends that, to the extent possible, the WTEC make clear which regions/states have expressed interest to engage in the initiative and make clear how it anticipates proactively increasing regional/state engagement.

2. *Does the proposed participation structure provide appropriate transparency, including how the inputs and assumptions are determined? If not, how could it be improved?*

Yes. The proposed inclusion of experienced independent consultants on the Technical Task Force would provide confidence that the input provided by stakeholders will be reflected in the efforts.

3. *What suggestions do you have about the composition of the committees and task force, and engagement with States and Tribes?*

AES supports the composition of the current task forces and encourages WTEC to continue the engagement/inclusion of States and Tribes representatives.

4. *We anticipate working closely with neighboring regions to achieve a broad viewpoint. Is that intention clearly articulated in the concept paper and understood through the proposed participation structure? If not, what changes could be made?*

Yes. The intent is clear; however, it is not clear whether neighboring regions/states have expressed interest to engage in the initiative.

5. *We anticipate that the coalition would work with an independent party to coordinate and review data, develop planning scenarios, and analyze results of the studies. What changes to the concept paper or proposed participation structure would give you greater confidence that a third party could provide independent analysis and recommendations?*

AES believes that the proposed structure will allow members and other interested parties to review and provide additional recommendations.

Thank you again for the opportunity.

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