



WestTEC Study Plan: Public Comment

Study Plan: General Feedback

Please complete and send this document to Admin-WTEC@westernpowerpool.org to provide your comments and feedback on the WestTEC Study Plan by August 9, 2024

1. Does the Study Plan clearly describe the goals of the effort and the end result? Do you feel that it provides a solid foundation for a credible, high-confidence work product?

The Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA) supports the Study Plan's goal to develop an actionable transmission study based on transmission portfolios that enhance reliability while considering economic efficiencies and state policy goals. The study plan is clearly written and accurately describes how it will create a credible and high value work product at a level of detail sufficient for this stage. We are hopeful that the results will be useful as input into planning processes, driving bilateral agreements, facilitating proactive outreach, providing data to assist with benefit calculations, offering context to local planning processes, assisting developers and utilities with optimization, and helping state regulators assess the prudence of transmission investment.

2. Does the Study Plan provide sufficient detail to understand the technical work that will occur over the next 2+ years?

The Study Plan is a good starting point as this process kicks off for the first time and we look forward to seeing additional details built out during study development. For example, we recommend that WestTEC help stakeholders better understand the nuances between study sensitivities versus scenarios as these elements are developed.

3. What concerns do you have about the Study Plan or the effort in general?

4. Open Comment Opportunity

As member of the Regional Engagement Committee, CEBA has appreciated the early opportunities to discuss the study plan and applauds WestTEC's investment in working with stakeholders.

Study Plan: Comments

Please provide comments and feedback on the following sections of the WestTEC Study Plan by August 9th, 2024. Once completed, please email this document to Admin-WTEC@westernpowerpool.org.

5. Study Goals

6. Concept of “Actionable Transmission Plan”

7. Reference Case: Assumptions and Data Sources

CEBA supports the inclusion of corporate voluntary goals alongside utility voluntary goals and state policy targets. The Study Plan notes that representation of planning constraints associated with these resource drivers will be developed with that WATT and regional partners in the course of the study. CEBA looks forward to working with the WATT on best practices for incorporating large energy customer demand and clean energy goals into both reference case assumptions as well as scenario analysis.

8. Planning Assessment & Methodologies: Step 1: Area to Area

9. Planning Assessment & Methodologies: Step 2: Develop Resource Plan

10. Planning Assessment & Methodologies: Step 3: Busbar Mapping

The Study Plan notes that the busbar mapping will utilize interconnection queue data to reflect commercial interest in certain geographic locations. In addition, CEBA recommends that the interconnection queue data be used to influence the buildout of resource types in the 20-year study. Utility IRPs represent an important data source for this forecast; interconnection queue data can be used as a supplemental source to validate the forecast and reflect commercial interest in certain technology types.

11. Planning Assessment & Methodologies: Step 4: Hypothesis Map Development

12. Planning Assessment & Methodologies: Step 5: Powerflow Assessment

13. Planning Assessment & Methodologies: Step 6: Transmission Portfolio Refinement & Iteration

14. Planning Assessment & Methodologies: Step 7: Congestion Assessment

15. Planning Assessment & Methodologies: Step 8: Transmission Solutioning

16. Planning Assessment & Methodologies: Step 9: Value Proposition (Benefits & Costs)

17. Planning Assessment & Methodologies: Step 10: Synthesis of Transmission Portfolios

See above- CEBA recommends that WestTEC help stakeholders better understand the nuances between study sensitivities versus scenarios as these elements are developed.

18. Scenario Planning and Sensitivities