

From: Blank - DORA, Eric <eric.blank@state.co.us>

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 1:33 PM

To: Admin WestTEC <Admin-WTEC@westernpowerpool.org>; Dan Greenberg <dan.greenberg@state.co.us>

Subject: Some brief comments on the WestTEC Study

Thanks for the opportunity to provide comments on the WestTEC study and more broadly your efforts to drive new transmission in the west. It is sorely needed, off to a great start, and really appreciated.

We (at the Colorado PUC) did have one suggestion in regard to the demand growth scenarios. Given all the uncertainty in the West right now (data center loads, climate extremes, VPPs, growing intermittent resources), we'd encourage WestTEC to look at a broad range of load forecasts.

For example, this range of load growth scenario analyses could include an extreme high (assuming data center loads double or triple expected load growth?) or an extreme low (assuming VPPs largely eliminate load growth?).

Given how fractured we are in the West, it seems likely that much of the new transmission may need to be developed and financed on a no-regrets basis. By analyzing extreme high-load and extreme low-load growth scenarios, this analysis may help convince utilities and regulators that the study findings and resulting transmission are highly cost-effective and robust even across these extreme and diverse scenarios.

Thanks for considering this suggestion.

Eric, Chair

Colorado Public Utilities Commission