



WestTEC Transmission Study: Advancing Idaho's Energy Future

WestTEC's 10-year West-Wide Transmission Study provides an actionable plan to advance critical transmission projects that strengthen reliability, integrate new resources, and enable economic growth in Idaho and across the West.

About the WestTEC study

Through an unprecedented effort paid for and driven by over 70 regional utilities and stakeholders, WestTEC's *West-Wide Transmission Study: 10-year Horizon Report* identifies transmission projects required for reliable and efficient grid operations through 2035. This infrastructure is needed to strengthen reliability, drive economic growth, increase access to a deeper market, expand power sharing across a wider footprint, and preserve affordability. While this summary focuses on projects located in Idaho, the broader portfolio also includes transmission investments in neighboring states, that will provide significant reliability and economic benefits to Idaho.

WestTEC benefits for Idaho

WestTEC transmission projects would deliver significant benefits to Idaho, including:

- **More resilience.** Supports critical electricity transfers to keep the lights on during extreme events, such as winter storms and heat waves.
- **More economic development.** Enables 23% load growth by 2035, positioning Idaho to attract and grow new industries.
- **More generation.** Enables 6 GW of new capacity, representing a 71% increase from today.

Idaho 2035 Outlook



23% load growth



2,611 miles of transmission upgrades*



6 GW of new generating capacity

*Includes interstate transmission projects with mileage outside of Idaho.

Total investment in Idaho

The WestTEC study identified a need for \$11.2 billion of new or upgraded transmission in Idaho — roughly 75% of the investment in Micron's planned chip fabrication facility in Boise, Idaho.

While this may seem daunting, projects representing 64% of the total mileage have either been identified in previous utility studies or are under development.

Idaho has the expertise, resources, and institutions to deliver these projects. The following page reviews the full project portfolio and outlines what is next.

Proposed WestTEC transmission projects in Idaho

In Idaho, WestTEC confirmed the need for 10 projects already identified by incumbent and independent developers. It also identified 3 projects that are not yet formally planned and will require sponsors. All projects must be completed by 2035 to meet growing demand and maintain reliability in Idaho and across the West.

Idaho Power, Bonneville Power Administration, and PacifiCorp projects

Idaho Power has identified a need for six WestTEC transmission lines totaling about \$233 million and is jointly developing the 290-mile Boardman-to-Hemingway transmission line connecting Idaho and Oregon.

PacifiCorp is also developing transmission infrastructure in Idaho as part of the broader Energy Gateway portfolio, including projects coordinated with Idaho Power.

In northern Idaho, BPA is investing approximately \$545 million to upgrade an existing transmission line and enhance regional reliability.

Independent transmission projects

Expected to be online in 2028, SWIP North is a \$1.2 billion transmission project in southern Idaho and the final segment of the Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) corridor. Together with the existing One Nevada Transmission Line in Nevada, it will create a continuous transmission pathway connecting Idaho to electricity markets in the Southwest. Great Basin Transmission is developing the project, while Idaho Power will hold transmission rights on the line.

Newly proposed projects

The WestTEC plan identified two new lines and one uprate through substation upgrades, totaling \$4.8 billion to address interstate needs and maintain reliability under stressed system conditions. Early, coordinated action on these projects is essential to ensure reliability through 2035.

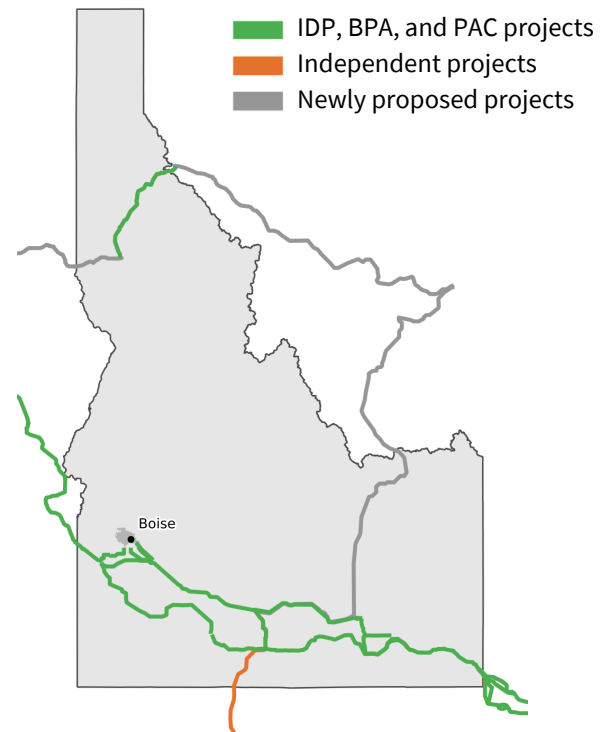
What happens next?

WestTEC's 10-Year Transmission Study provides an actionable roadmap for advancing transmission in Idaho. Given the long timelines for siting, permitting, and construction, it is critical to move these projects forward now. Incumbent and independent developers must complete their planned projects, while newly proposed projects will need to be advanced through new partnerships. Strong coordination across stakeholders will be essential to ensure these projects are successfully delivered.

Coming soon...

Expected later in 2026, WestTEC's 20-year horizon study will build on the 10-year horizon study by examining Western grid needs through 2045 under varied load growth, policy, and technology futures. Extending the planning horizon enables more proactive decision-making, helping ensure that near-term investments deliver the greatest long-term value at the lowest overall costs.

WestTEC transmission portfolio in Idaho by project developer



Source: Horizon Energy Systems, 2026, ourgridfuture.org