



WestTEC Transmission Study: Advancing New Mexico'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 New Mexico 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. While this summary focuses on projects located in New Mexico, the broader portfolio also includes transmission investments in neighboring states that will provide significant reliability and economic benefits to New Mexico.

WestTEC benefits for New Mexico

WestTEC transmission projects would deliver significant benefits to New Mexico, including:

- **More generation.** Enables 12 GW of new capacity, representing a 133% increase from today.
- **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 30% load growth by 2035, positioning New Mexico to attract and grow new industries.
- **Advancing New Mexico's goals.** Supports New Mexico's Energy Transition Act's statewide renewable energy requirement of 50% by 2030.

New Mexico 2035 outlook



30% load growth



1,821 miles of transmission upgrades*



12 GW of new generating capacity

*Includes interstate transmission projects with mileage outside of New Mexico.

Total investment in New Mexico

The WestTEC study identified a need for \$7.2 billion of new or upgraded transmission in New Mexico — an investment roughly equivalent to building four projects the size of the SunZia wind and transmission project by 2035.

While this may seem daunting, more than 30% of the total mileage is already in service, and projects representing 59% of the total mileage have either been identified in previous utility studies or are currently under development.

New Mexico has the expertise, resources, and institutions to deliver these projects.

Proposed WestTEC transmission projects in New Mexico

In New Mexico, WestTEC confirmed the need for 12 projects already identified by incumbent and independent developers. It also identified 6 additional 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 New Mexico and across the West.

Public Service Company of New Mexico and El Paso electric projects

PNM has identified a need for eight WestTEC lines totaling approximately \$2 billion in its resource and transmission plans, while EPE has identified two lines totaling \$4 million. These projects are at various stages of development, with several expected before 2030, making timely completion — without permitting or other delays — critical. A key priority identified by both PNM and WestTEC is the Albuquerque–Four Corners corridor, which has several routing options and is identified by the dotted green line on the map.

Independent transmission projects

Energized in April 2026, Pattern Energy’s SunZia project is the largest clean energy infrastructure project in US history. Rio Sol is a separate project that runs largely parallel to SunZia. Together, these projects account for \$4.2 billion of the \$7.2 billion total investment. Most costs will be recovered from out-of-state utilities purchasing the high-quality wind energy that these projects will deliver across the West.

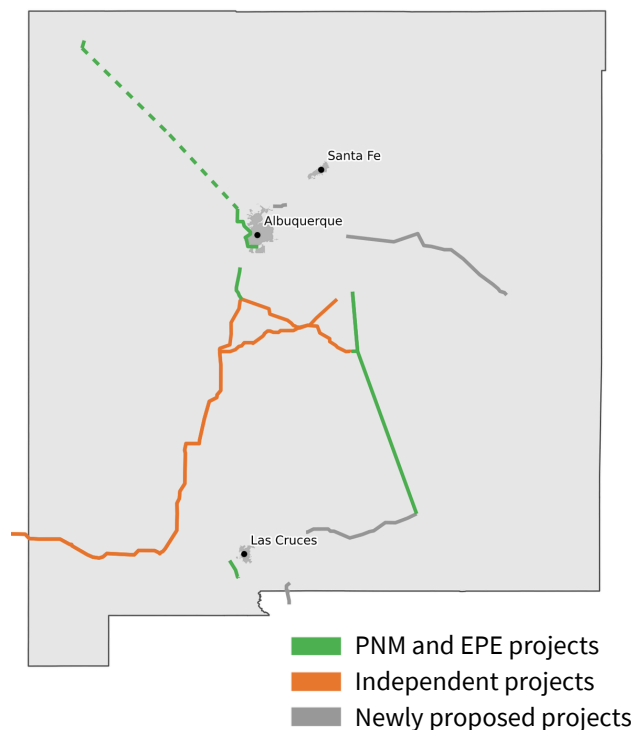
What happens next?

WestTEC’s 10-Year Transmission Study provides an actionable roadmap for advancing transmission in New Mexico. Given the long timeline 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. Additionally, the 20-year study will quantify the cost savings delivered by the portfolio.

WestTEC transmission portfolio in New Mexico by project developer



Source: Horizon Energy Systems, 2026, ourgridfuture.org

Newly proposed projects

The WestTEC plan identified two new transformers, three reconductors, and one line rebuild totaling \$1 billion to address both intrastate and regional needs. While some are being considered by developers, they have not advanced to development and still require sponsorship. Early coordinated action on these projects is essential to ensure reliability through 2035.