

WestTEC Transmission Study: Advancing Utah'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 Utah 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 Utah, the broader portfolio also includes transmission investments in neighboring states that will provide significant reliability and economic benefits to Utah.

WestTEC benefits for Utah

WestTEC transmission projects would deliver significant benefits to Utah, 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 16% load growth by 2035, positioning Utah to attract and grow new industries.
- **More generation.** Enables 13 GW of new capacity, representing a 139% increase from today.

Utah 2035 outlook



16% load growth



1,510 miles of transmission upgrades*



13 GW of new generating capacity

*Includes interstate transmission projects with mileage outside of Utah.

Total Investment in Utah

The WestTEC study identified a need for \$5.7 billion of new or upgraded transmission in Utah — an investment roughly equivalent to only the past 3 years of Utah Department of Transportation highway projects.

While this may seem daunting, all the identified transmission lines have either been identified in previous utility studies or are currently under development.

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

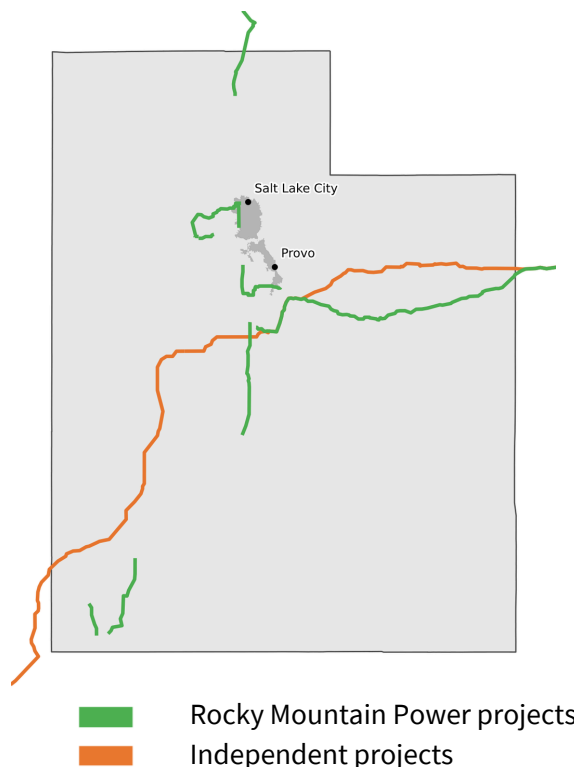
Proposed WestTEC transmission projects in Utah

In Utah, WestTEC confirmed the need for seven projects already identified by incumbent and independent developers. All projects must be completed by 2035 to meet growing demand and maintain reliability in Utah and across the West.

Rocky Mountain Power projects

Rocky Mountain Power is developing five lines in Utah, representing approximately \$563 million. These projects are at various stages of development, with several expected to come online before 2032. Ensuring timely completion — without permitting or other delays — will be critical to meeting these timelines. These projects are part of Rocky Mountain Power's Energy Gateway transmission expansion program, a multi-decade initiative coordinated with Idaho Power. Rocky Mountain Power completed Gateway South in 2024, while Gateway Central is currently under development and is expected to come online by 2030.

WestTEC transmission portfolio in Utah by project developer



Source: Horizon Energy Systems, 2026, ourgridfuture.org

Independent transmission projects

The TransWest Express project is a 732-mile, \$3 billion transmission line spanning Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Colorado. Construction began in 2023, and the project is expected to be operational by 2027, delivering up to 3 GW of electricity across the West. The line's connection point in Delta, Utah will strengthen Utah's role as a regional energy hub, enhance grid reliability, and improve access to energy resources across the Western grid.

Newly proposed projects

The WestTEC plan identified a new phase shifter and a new transformer totaling \$67 million to address both intrastate and regional needs. While they 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.

What happens next?

WestTEC's 10-Year Transmission Study provides an actionable roadmap for advancing transmission in Utah. 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.