# Background

The Western Transmission Expansion Coalition (WestTEC) is a West-wide effort to develop an actionable transmission plan to support the future transmission needs of the Western Interconnection over a 20+ year timeframe (the Plan). This effort was initiated to address a widely recognized concern that current transmission planning frameworks in the West do not result in sufficient transmission solutions to address expected needs.

The WestTEC effort is organized into three committees: the Steering Committee, the WestTEC Assessment Technical Team (WATT), and the Regional Engagement Committee (REC). The Steering Committee is WestTEC’s primary decision-making body, working with and taking input from both the REC and WATT, and providing guidance to the WATT.

The WATT, Steering, and REC committees may form sub-teams within their respective committees, or across committees. Cross-committee teams will work collaboratively together to ensure the scope of the sub-team is clear, there is appropriate cross functional representation and committee chairs are in agreement to its scope and engagement. The Steering Committee will also consider sub-team formation with respect to scope of work and budget impacts.

The WATT is made up of representatives from organizations on the Steering Committee and selected additional technical and policy experts. The WATT includes an Independent Consultant selected by the Steering Committee who is responsible for supporting the WATT’s work and executing the technical and modeling analysis necessary to create the Plan.

# Objectives

The WATT’s objective is to provide technical and policy support for WestTEC’s efforts to produce the Plan. This includes the WATT’s responsibility to identify and recommend to the Steering Committee a study scope and analytical approach for creating the Plan that is consistent with the Concept Paper[[1]](#footnote-2) and WestTEC Project Charter[[2]](#footnote-3), and then supporting the Independent Consultant in the execution of the study scope and analytical approach.

The WATT’s proposed study scope shall address all technical topics necessary to produce an actionable, West-wide transmission plan, including renewable energy zones, generation resource expansion projections, electrification and load data and forecasts, scenario development, phasing of study outcomes and recommendations, data protocols, and any other pertinent technical details deemed necessary. Throughout all its work, the WATT will endeavor to use a West-wide lens when weighing the tradeoffs embedded in choices about inputs, assumptions, transmission solutions, and other technical elements of the study scope and approach.

As part of its process for developing the proposed study scope and analytical approach, the WATT will seek input from the REC. The WATT’s proposal will be subject to any modifications or additional guidance provided by the Steering Committee, who will have final authority to approve the study scope and approach.

The Independent Consultant is responsible for supporting the WATT’s development of the study scope and approach, conducting the analysis, and developing solutions in collaboration with the WATT.

# Deliverables

1. A Study Plan describing the WATT’s recommended study scope and analytical approach.
2. Execution of the Study Plan as approved by the Steering Committee and production of all analyses, modeling, and corresponding reports described therein.

# Resources

The WPP will provide project management and logistical and facilitation support to the WATT. WPP staff will work collaboratively with the WATT Co-Chairs to schedule and notice meetings, create agendas, keep meeting minutes, keep the overall effort on schedule, and coordinate support from other resources as needed. The WPP will provide and maintain a web-based collaborative platform site for use by the committee to maintain relevant files and documentation.

WPP staff will also help coordinate external communications regarding the progress of the WATT (press releases, public meetings, as appropriate). As needed, the WPP can also provide limited legal support for the WATT.

# Procedures

## Meetings

WATT meetings will typically be held bi-weekly, as recommended by the Co-Chairs and agreed upon by the WATT membership. Re-scheduling or additional meetings may be required from time to time and the WATT will endeavor to coordinate these for maximum participation and will provide adequate advance notice.

WATT meetings are generally not open to the public. Engagement with the public will be conducted through the REC. At the discretion of the WATT Co-Chairs, the WATT may elect to provide public comment periods, hold public stakeholder webinars, or allow public observation or participation in WATT meetings.

High-level minutes of the meeting will be posted to the WATT SharePoint, along with meeting materials. Minutes will include topics discussed, action items, and decisions reached.

## Representative Term Minimum

WATT representatives are highly encouraged to serve though the duration of the project, which is currently anticipated to run through September 30, 2026.

## Co-Chairs

The WATT will be led by 3 co-chairs, whose duties include:

1. Development of meeting agendas in coordination with the Independent Consultant
2. Facilitation of meetings, ensuring committee members are given time to speak and contribute as appropriate
3. Conducting polls as needed to gauge the positions or level of consensus of the WATT
4. Working to ensure that meeting and committee objectives are achieved
5. Calling special meetings outside regular schedules, if needed, and providing advance notice
6. Reporting progress to other Committees of WestTEC
7. Representing the WATT in other WestTEC Committee meetings
8. Representing the WATT in engagement with States and Tribes

The Co-Chairs will be supported by WPP staff to fulfill their duties.

## Decision Making and Quorum

The WATT will strive for and will act on the consensus of its members, where consensus means that all participants can “live with” the decision. However, in the event consensus cannot be obtained, the WATT Co-Chairs may call for a vote to assess the positions of the WATT membership and the level of disagreement. If a vote is required, a non-binding polling system will be utilized. All members of the WATT are eligible to vote in such polls, however each entity represented on the WATT may only be represented by a single vote in any given poll. Entities who do not have a representative present during a poll that is taken during a WATT meeting will be permitted to vote electronically with their votes due within two (2) business days. The results of these polls will be communicated to the WATT by the Co-Chairs without undue delay.

In cases where there is significant disagreement that persists following the use of a poll, WATT members who do not agree with the majority position may provide a report describing their position to the Steering Committee.

The WATT may make use of sub-groups as needed; however, the full WATT will be allowed to participate in any polls should a sub-group deem it necessary to hold a poll.

Because polls will be open to participation by WATT members who are absent from a meeting, there are no quorum requirements for WATT to meet. At their discretion, the Co-Chairs may elect to defer discussion or decisions based on insufficient attendance at a WATT meeting.

## Alternates

Each WATT member may designate an alternate to represent the views of the member’s organization in the member’s absence. Members are encouraged to designate their alternates in advance and alternates are welcomed and encouraged to attend WATT meetings.

## Working together (principles of engagement)

WATT representatives will strive to work in the best interest of the Western Interconnection Region. A spirit of collaboration will govern discussions, and the WATT will strive to manage cordially through conflicts and differences of opinion. Consistent attendance and meaningful engagement at WATT meetings by the WATT membership will be critical to the successful creation of the Plan.

# Communications

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project Management Team and Co-Chairs | The Co-Chairs and Independent Consultant will work with the WPP project management team to coordinate on routine communications and logistical issues |
| Among WATT representatives | Communications among the WATT representatives are encouraged as appropriate; all issues coming before the WATT for decision should be discussed in the full WATT forum. The WATT will strive to perform most of its discussions in its meetings but may make use of email dialogue as appropriate |

# Schedule

**Target: April 2024-August 2024**

Develop study plan and analytical approach.

**Target: April 2024-XXX**

Assemble and submit data to the Independent Consultant as appropriate.

**Target: Sept 2024-XXX**

Execute the Study Plan as approved by Steering.

# WATT Composition

WATT membership is established by the Steering Committee. The current WATT members and alternates are recorded in Appendix A. Should a current WATT member elect to step down, that member’s organization may nominate a replacement.

# Appendix A

## Current Representation

Co-Chairs: Jeff Billinton (CAISO), Ben Fitch-Fleischmann (Interwest), Jennifer Galaway (PGE)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organization**  | **Representative** |
| **Energy Strategies**  | **Keegan Moyer - Independent Consultant** |
| **E3** | **Jack Moore – Independent Consultant** |
| **APS** | **David Wiley** |
| **AVA****BC Hydro** | **John Gross****Michael Guité** |
| **BPA** | **Ravi Aggarwal** |
| **CAISO** | **Jeff Billinton (Alt: Biju Gopi)** |
| **Cascade Renewable Transmission** | **Corey Kupersmith** |
| **CHPD** | **Zach Zornes** |
| **GridLab** | **Casey Baker** |
| **GridLiance** | **James O'Brien** |
| **Interwest Energy Alliance** | **Ben Fitch-Fleischmann (Alt: Remy Franklin)** |
| **Invenergy****IPCO** | **Ajay Pappu****Jared Ellsworth** |
| **LS Power** | **Denden Tekeste** |
| **NIPPC** | **Henry Tilghman** |
| **NVE****Northwestern** | **Charles Pottey****Ryan Munson (Alt: Jessica Boatwright)** |
| **NWPCC** | **John Ollis** |
| **PAC****Pacific Gas & Electric** | **Scott Beyer (Alt: Rikin Shah)****Marco Rios (Alt: Shengnan Shao)** |
| **Pattern Energy** | **Cameron Yourkowski (Alt: Max Code)** |
| **PGE** | **Jennifer Galaway (Alt: Ian Beil)** |
| **PNM** | **Stephen Jenkins (Alt: Karen Reedy)** |
| **PNNL** | **Jason Fuller** |
| **PNUCC** | **Aliza Seelig** |
| **Powerex** | **Gordon Dobson-Mack** |
| **PSE** | **Eleanor Ewry (Alt: Jens Nedrud, Stephanie Imamovic)** |
| **Renewable Northwest** | **Richard Doying**  |
| **SCE****SCL** | **Allison Auld-Hill (Alt: Hayk Zargaryan)****Uzma Siddiqi** |
| **SNPD** | **John Martinsen (Alt: John Liang)** |
| **SPP** | **Joshua Pilgrim (Alt: Joshua Norton)** |
| **SRP** | **Justin Lee** |
| **WAPA** | **Rebecca Johnson** |
| **WECC** | **Branden Suddeth (Alt: Enoch Davies)** |
| **WestConnect** | **Heidi Pacini (Alt: Charlie Reinhold)** |
| **WIEB** | **Robin Arnold** |
| **WPP** | **Chelsea Loomis** |
| **Xcel Energy** | **Claire Van Gundy** |

1. WestTEC Concept Paper for a West-Wide Transmission Plan, October 2023, available at <https://www.westernpowerpool.org/private-media/documents/Western_Transmission_Planning_Concept_Paper_October_2023.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. As of 4/8/2024 the Project Charter is under construction. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)