

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

## WestTEC benefits for Washington

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

- **More generation.** Enables 10 GW of new capacity, representing a 33% 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 14% load growth by 2035, positioning Washington to attract and grow new industries.
- **Advancing Washington's goals.** Supports the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) which requires all retail sales to be supplied with 100% clean energy by 2045.

## Washington 2035 outlook



**14% load growth**



**1,098 miles** of transmission upgrades\*



**10 GW** of new generating capacity

\*Includes interstate transmission projects with mileage outside of Washington.

## Total investment in Washington

The WestTEC study identified a need for \$8.5 billion of new or upgraded transmission in Washington — roughly 60% of the investment in the I-5 highway project between Portland, OR, and Vancouver, WA.

While this may seem daunting, projects representing 54% of the total mileage have either been identified in previous utility studies or are currently under development.

Washington 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 Washington

In Washington, WestTEC confirmed the need for eight projects already identified by incumbent and independent developers. It also identified one additional project that is not yet formally planned and will require sponsors. All projects must be built by 2035 to meet growing demand and maintain reliability in Washington and across the West.

### Bonneville Power Administration and Puget Sound Energy projects

BPA has identified six transmission upgrades totaling approximately \$2.1 billion, all expected to be in service by 2035. BPA is also upgrading the Montana-to-Washington transmission line. While the upgrade is located in Montana and Idaho, the line is critical to Washington's electric system and regional reliability. In addition, PSE has proposed a new 235-mile transmission line with an estimated cost of \$3.7 billion to address aging infrastructure and improve wildfire resilience. The project is expected to be in service by 2033. Timely completion of these projects is critical to expand grid capacity and strengthen reliability across the Pacific Northwest.

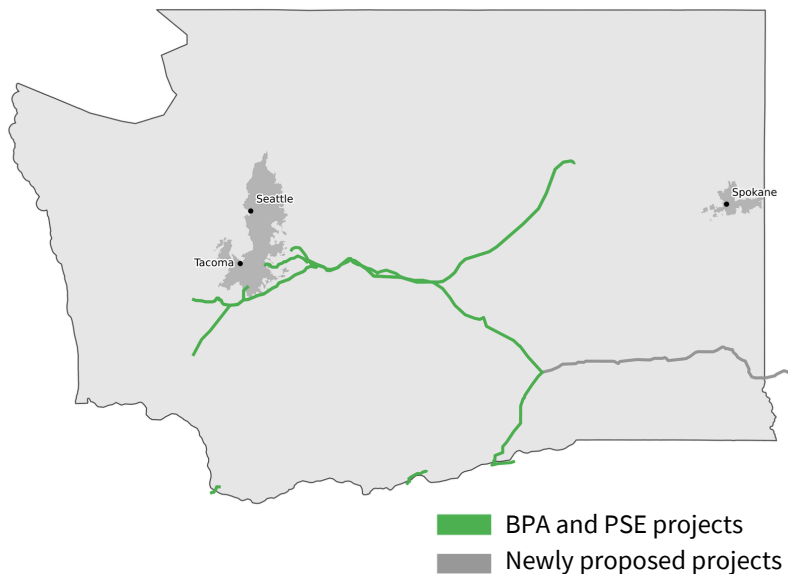
### What happens next?

WestTEC's 10-Year Transmission Study provides an actionable roadmap for advancing transmission in Washington. 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 Washington by project developer



Source: Horizon Energy Systems, 2026, [ourgridfuture.org](http://ourgridfuture.org)

### Newly proposed projects

The WestTEC plan identified one new line in eastern Washington costing \$2.6 billion to support interregional power flow. Early, coordinated action on this project is essential to ensure reliability through 2035.