



WestTEC Study Plan: Public Comment

Study Plan: General Feedback

Please complete and send this document to Admin-WTEC@westernpowerpool.org to provide your comments and feedback on the WestTEC Study Plan by August 9, 2024

1. Does the Study Plan clearly describe the goals of the effort and the end result? Do you feel that it provides a solid foundation for a credible, high-confidence work product?

Yes, NWEA is pleased with the progress that has been made to date with the most recent iteration (v4) of the Study Plan. We have especially appreciated the continued conversation around the meaning of “actionable” in this context, as well as the clarity around how the Study Plan may be used by entities seeking to construct transmission projects in the future.

2. Does the Study Plan provide sufficient detail to understand the technical work that will occur over the next 2+ years?

Yes, although we look forward to continuing to work through the details regarding what future inputs and new information will be considered as the Study Plan moves into its later phases. We will expand on this issue in below in 4.

3. What concerns do you have about the Study Plan or the effort in general?

NWEA continues to urge the WTEC leadership team to allow for equitable representation from various interest groups in the various committees and sub-committees that are being formed. For instance, the scenarios and sensitivities sub-committee should not be dominated by voices from parties that will eventually own transmission or stand to benefit economically from the development of the Study Plan in a certain manner. As iterated in our prior comments, the Study Plan should objectively strive to meet the needs of the region in a manner that prioritizes least regrets solutions and integrates grid enhancing technologies to optimize the existing transmission system while simultaneously selecting the most cost effective greenfield projects.

4. Open Comment Opportunity

NWEC notes that p. 7 of the v4 Study Plan includes new language that allows for “material” new information that becomes available after publication of the Study Plan to be considered by the Steering Committee on a case-by-case basis. The decision regarding whether new information is “material” should not be made by the Steering Committee alone. To align with the spirit of inclusion and open dialogue that has enabled the WTEC effort to be successful to date, member of the REC and WATT should also be able to suggest that new information is “material” and should therefore be potentially considered. In addition to obvious new information like revised state or federal policies or new projects, new studies, such as the regional study being undertaken by PNNL may also be “material.” NWEC would appreciate a conversation around this issue with the broader WTEC planning effort.

NWEC appreciates the work on this important effort and is grateful for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Mike Goetz
NW Energy Coalition
REC Member