

High Plains Express Transmission Project Fact Sheet

About the High Plains Express Transmission Project

The High Plains Express Transmission Project (HPX) is a proactive plan for the expansion and reinforcement of the transmission grid in the states of Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. The goal is to develop a high-voltage, backbone transmission system that will enhance reliability and increase access to renewable and other diverse generation resources within regional energy resource zones. The first phase of the HPX is a joint participation feasibility study that will explore transmission alternatives. Eight parties have initiated a feasibility study, which they hope to complete by August 2007.

Project Needs

Recent forecasts show that over the next decade there will be a significant increase in the demand for electricity. Consumers are also indicating an increased desire to see that some of these additional power demands be met by renewable resources. To accommodate the growth in load and resource requirements, the existing transmission system will need to be upgraded and expanded.

Project Benefits

The potential exists for multiple benefits related to this collaboration that will extend to many customers and include:

- Provide economic access to additional, diverse resources to meet rapid load growth;
- Provide resource developers with increased transmission capability to reach markets;
- Improve overall regional electric reliability;
- Increase import and export transfer capabilities;
- Minimize environmental impacts by sharing utility corridors;
- Help states meet renewable energy standards;

The HPX feasibility study will explore possible synergies with other transmission projects being developed in the region, and the potential to incorporate a supplemented or coordinated transmission plan. Those projects include:

- The TOT 3 Project, under consideration by the WIA, Trans-Elect and others;
- TransWest Express project, under consideration by APS, SRP, Southern California Edison (SCE), TEP, WIA and others;
- The Eastern Plains Transmission Project (EPTP), under consideration by Tri-State and Western;
- The SunZia Southwest Transmission Project;
- The Path 48 (Northern New Mexico Import) Project, being developed by PNM.

Project Study Members

The High Plains Express Transmission Project includes Colorado Springs Utilities, Platte River Power Authority, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Salt River Project, Trans-Elect Development Company, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Western Area Power Administration, and Xcel Energy.