



Transmission Asset Management
550 15th Street, 7th Floor
Denver, CO 80202-4205

April 2, 2009

Planning Coordination Committee
Technical Studies Subcommittee

Subject: WECC Regional Planning Project Review Process for the High Plains Express Initiative

On November 20 2008, eleven parties executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a second stage of studies to evaluate the feasibility of the High Plains Express (HPX) Transmission Initiative. Trans-Elect and Xcel Energy are co-managing the Initiative on behalf of the MOU parties, which include Black Hills Corporation, Colorado Springs Utilities, Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority, New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Salt River Project, Trans-Elect, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Western Area Power Administration, Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, and Xcel Energy.

The purpose of the HPX Initiative is to jointly explore opportunities to expand the high-voltage backbone electric transmission system in Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona to reliably meet the growing electricity needs of the region, as well as increasing transmission access to renewable and other diverse resources within potential regional energy resource zones. The HPX Initiative considers other major regional transmission projects that are under development and looks for potential opportunities and synergies.

The Stage 1 Study effort culminated with the June 2008 Feasibility Study Report, which can be referenced at http://www.rmao.com/wtpp/HPX_Studies.html. The Feasibility Study indicated that a project that consisted of two single-circuit 500 kV AC lines could provide up to 4000 MW of transfer capability by 2017.

In accordance with the WECC Regional Planning Project Review Process, we are now soliciting interest in forming a joint Regional Planning Project Review Group for the HPX Initiative. The Stage 2 study effort is being kicked off with a Stakeholder meeting in Denver on April 17, 2009. If you are interested in participating in the Regional Planning Project Review Group, please fill out the attached form and return it to Ms. Jandi Polka by April 17, 2009 (or bring it to the Stakeholder meeting). The Stage 2 and Regional Planning effort is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009 or early 2010. If you have any questions concerning the HPX Initiative, please feel free to contact Mr. Robert Kondziolka or me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thomas W. Green'.

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cc: Kent Bolton, WECC Staff