

February 11, 2008

Public Announcement

Wyoming-Colorado Intertie Project Update

In late 2005, a public/private partnership involving the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, Trans-Elect Development Company LLC, and Western Area Power Administration (“Western”) was formed to investigate the expansion of the constrained TOT 3 transmission path. Since that time, the project (now known as the Wyoming-Colorado Intertie or WCI) has made significant progress in developing a new transmission line that would add 900 MW of capacity between Wyoming and Colorado, as summarized below:

- The WCI project consists of a 180 mile-long 345 kV integrated transmission line from the Laramie River Station to the Pawnee Station; depending on customer interest, it may be extended 80 miles to the Dave Johnston Station via a 230 kV line;
- Customer interest has intensified since Western’s November 2005 expression of interest solicitation in which 17 parties expressed interest in between 2,100 MW and 7,000 MW of power export capacity – most of it wind;
- Technical, design, cost, and routing studies have been completed by industry leading consulting firms and are the basis of the project’s development plan which would result in a mid-2013 commercial operations date;
- Phase I of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council path rating process was completed in October 2007 and WCI is now in the initial stages of Phase II; WCI is also being incorporated in the long-range transmission plan being developed under the auspices of the Colorado Coordinated Planning Group (CCPG);
- Public policy support for the project is strong, as it will enable the export of Wyoming’s high-quality wind resources for the benefit of Colorado consumers;
- An Open Season auction for capacity, which complies with FERC requirements, will be held in mid-summer, 2008; the auction has been timed to be compatible with PSCo’s anticipated timetable for bidding 800 MW of wind generation for installation in the 2010-2015 time frame; Charles River Associates has been retained to design, administer, and manage the Open Season and evaluate bids;
- A project website has been launched: www.wyia.org/wci

For further information, please contact Loyd Drain with the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, Jerry Vaninetti of Trans-Elect, or Bob Easton of Western Area Power Authority.