



The following letter and 2012-2013 NTTG Biennial Transmission Plan Summary were broadly distributed to federal, state and other regulatory and planning entities.

December 20, 2013

Recipient
Title
Company
Street Address
City, State Zip

[Recipient]:

The Northern Tier Transmission Group (NTTG) was formed voluntarily in 2007 to promote effective planning and use of the multi-state electric transmission system within the five-state footprint of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. Its members include the five state regulatory commissions, as well as the Montana Consumer Counsel and the Utah Office of Consumer Services. Its six participating utility members¹ collectively serve more than 4 million customers and own and operate more than 29,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines spanning the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions.

Since issuance of our last biennial report in January, 2012, NTTG has undertaken an open, transparent, public process to develop a plan to meet the potential need for new transmission capability within its sub-regional footprint. This process has included numerous public stakeholder meetings to solicit input needed to project the most effective and efficient ways to expand the electrical transmission system to accommodate existing and future needs. In addition, this planning process has included coordination with neighboring sub-regional transmission planning groups and support of Western Interconnection-wide planning efforts through the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC).

On December 3, 2013, the NTTG Steering Committee adopted the following reports (collectively, the NTTG Regional Transmission Plan):

- The 2012-2013 Biennial Transmission Plan Final Report;
- The companion 2012-2013 Biennial Transmission Plan Summary²; and
- The 2012-2013 Biennial Plan Cost Allocation Committee Final Report.

Copies of these reports can be found on the NTTG website at www.nttg.biz³.

¹ Deseret Generation & Transmission Co-operative, Idaho Power Company, NorthWestern Corporation, PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric Company, and the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems.

PacifiCorp also provides service to customers in Washington and California.

² Attachment 1 "2012-2013 Biennial Transmission Plan Summary" to this letter

³ See folder "NTTG Biennial Reports."

The 2012-2013 Biennial Transmission Final Report summarizes the findings of power flow studies that were conducted to determine: 1) if there is adequate transmission capability within the existing Northern Tier Transmission Group (NTTG) transmission system to meet the needs of the 2022 loads and resources; 2) whether the Common Case Transmission Assumptions (CCTA)⁴ provide enough transmission capacity to meet the 2022 needs under various stressed conditions with respect to the NTTG footprint; and 3) if a new direct current (DC) bipole transmission line from Wyoming to Nevada (TransWest Express) is adequate to move 3000 MW from the wind farms in Wyoming to the Nevada marketplace in the 2022 timeframe.

The biennial transmission plan studies demonstrate that there is not adequate transmission capacity in the existing interconnected NTTG system to meet the needs of the forecasted 2022 loads and resources. Therefore, it was necessary to conduct regional studies to determine what additional transmission facilities are required to accommodate 2022 loads and resources under various stressed conditions relative to the NTTG footprint. The studies of the five stressed conditions illustrate that the CCTA transmission additions are adequate for all five NTTG conditions studied. The preliminary study results of the Wyoming-Nevada DC line scenario indicate that either additional transmission facilities or a significant amount of remedial action schemes are required in order to mitigate significant impacts on the NTTG system.

The majority of projects that were submitted to the Planning Committee had also been submitted in the 2010-2011 cycle. Subsequently, the Cost Allocation Committee Chair sent a letter to those entities noting that in the prior cycle they did not request a NTTG cost allocation and soliciting input on whether they wished to be considered for an NTTG cost allocation this cycle. For those projects that were not submitted in the prior cycle, a letter and data request was sent to the sponsoring organization inquiring as to whether a NTTG cost allocation was requested. All organizations responded that they did not wish to be considered for NTTG cost allocation. On the basis that no organization requested an NTTG cost allocation, the Committee did not make any cost allocation recommendations for the biennial period 2012-2013.

We are hopeful that the Regional Transmission Plan documents will be useful in any process states may use to consider any of these projects. Should you need any further information on the NTTG Regional Transmission Plan, please contact Sharon Helms, NTTG Project Manager at sharon.helms@comprehensivepower.org or (503) 644-6262.

Sincerely,



Travis Kavulla
Co-Chair, NTTG Steering Committee
Commissioner
Montana Public Service Commission



Ray Brush
Co-Chair, NTTG Steering Committee
Manager, Regional Transmission Policy
Northwestern Energy Corporation

⁴ "Common Case Transmission Assumptions" is a list of transmission projects that have a high probability of being in service in a 10-year timeframe provided by the Subregional Planning Group Coordination Group to the Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee for the WECC Regional Transmission Expansion Planning process.