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Transmission Planning in the West February 8, 2012 Tribal Leader Forum Series, Denver, CO

## Today's Discussion

- What is WECC?
- What is RTEP?
- 2011 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan
- 2013 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan
- 2013 20-Year Regional Transmission Target Plan
- Opportunities for Tribal Participation

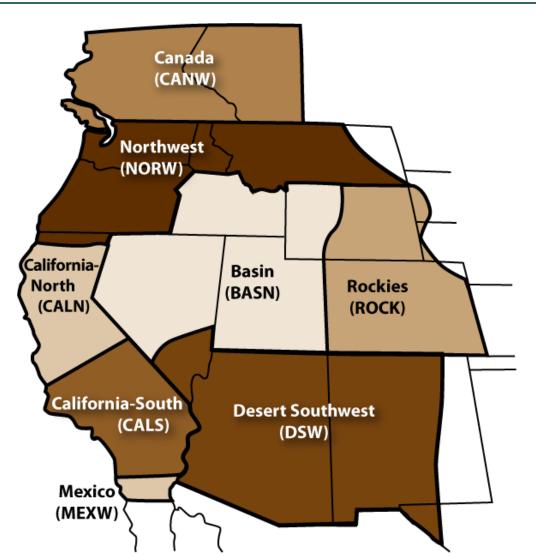


## Why Transmission Planning?

"My interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there." ... Charles Kettering



## What is WECC?



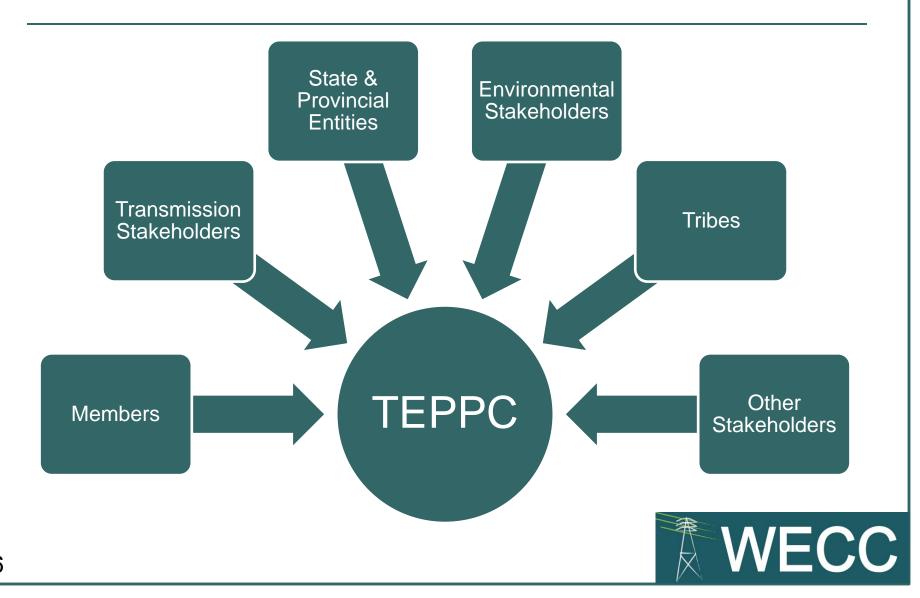


## Transmission Planning at WECC

- Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC)—April, 2006
  - Annual study program
  - Transmission expansion studies
  - Congestion analyses—production cost modeling



## Who Does TEPPC Serve?



## RTEP Project

- DOE funding opportunity in 2009
  - \$14.5 million over four years
  - Expanded transmission planning activities
  - Coordinated with policy-based project at Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB)
- Primary Deliverables
  - 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan (2011)
  - 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan (2013)
  - 20-Year Regional Transmission Target Plan (2013)



## 10-Year Plan (2011)

#### Stakeholder Input

- Biennial Study Cycle
- Open Season

#### Define Assumptions

- Loads
- Resources
- Transmission

#### Create Study Cases

- Prioritize
- Perform Analyses

#### **Create Plan**

 Stakeholder Review

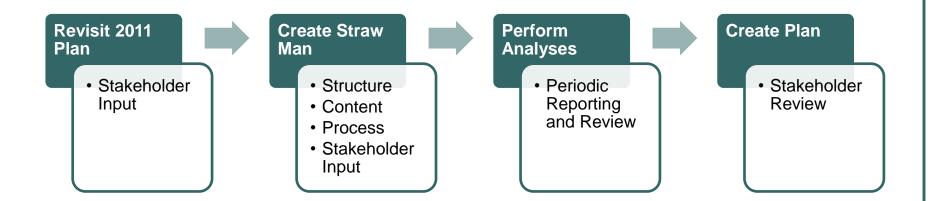


### Recommendations—2011

- 1. Cost-effective remote renewables
- 2. Montana-to-Northwest (Path 8)
- 3. Pacific Tie Paths (Paths 65 and 66)
- 4. Operational impacts of variable generation
- 5. Planning cooperation
- 6. Environmental and cultural considerations
- 7. Water resource impacts
- 8. Future regional planning processes



## 10-Year Plan (2013)



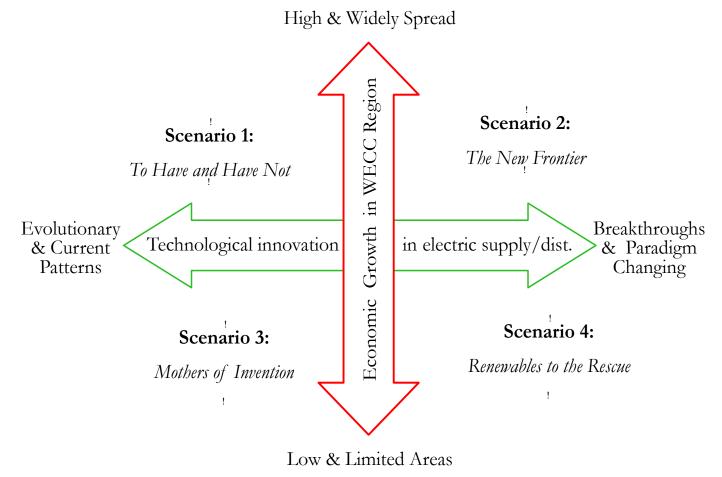


# New Initiatives Supporting 20-Year Plan

- Scenario planning
  - Alternate feasible futures for the Western Interconnection
  - Implications for transmission
  - Guides strategic choices



## WECC Scenarios





## Environmental/Cultural Analyses

- Preferred data sets
- Land classification system
- Methodology for comparing transmission alternatives
- Exploration of methodologies for assessing economic values of environmental and cultural goods and services



## Opportunities for Tribal Participation

- Scenario modeling
  - Policies affecting scenarios
  - Metrics used to model scenarios
- Environmental Data Task Force
  - Impacts on tribal lands
- 10-Year and 20-Year Plan development
  - Key questions
  - Plan content
  - Development process
- Funding for participation is available through 2013



## Collaboration is the Key

"Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." ... Mattie Stepanek



## Questions



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