

WHEN will the TWE Project be built?

Basic steps of construction

Once all permits, easements and permissions have been acquired, these are some of the activities required as part of the construction process.

- Prepare access roads
- Install structure foundations
- Install transmission structures
- String conductor and cabling
- Build terminal stations at either end of the line
- Build ground electrode and related electrical systems
- Restore all disturbed lands

Before construction begins, TransWest also will have completed substantial geotechnical work, soil testing, surveying, and other route planning and engineering work.

Working today to meet tomorrow's renewable energy requirements

The TransWest Express Transmission Project will take two to three years to construct and to place in service. However, many years of planning, engineering and permitting work will have occurred before construction activities may begin.

Most important is the study and route analysis required as part of the process to obtain rights-of-way over federal lands. TransWest Express LLC has applied for rights-of-way because the proposed route and the alternative routes for the transmission line cross hundreds of miles of federal land that is mainly administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The proposed project is a major federal action requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. BLM and Western Area Power Administration are joint lead agencies preparing the EIS.

A preliminary right-of-way application was filed with BLM in 2007, which was amended and re-filed by TransWest Express LLC in 2008 after it acquired the development rights to the project and updated again in 2010. In 2009 and 2010, TransWest submitted to BLM the initial and updated versions of its Preliminary Plan of Development, guided by TransWest's ongoing planning, engineering and design work.

Public scoping was completed January-April 2011. The Draft EIS was announced in July 2013. A Record of Decision on the EIS is expected from BLM and Western by 2014. TransWest anticipates completing construction of the TWE Project by 2016-2017.

Basic stages of the EIS process

An Environmental Impact Statement must be completed on many projects involving federal action, as part of the National Environmental Policy Act. This multi-step, multi-year process involves extensive study, analysis and opportunities for the public to provide feedback for federal agencies to consider when making their decisions. As joint lead agencies for the TWE Project EIS, BLM and Western set the schedule for this process. Here is a basic overview of what an EIS entails.

1. **Publish Notice of Intent** in the Federal Register to prepare an EIS.
2. **Hold public scoping period** to gather stakeholder comments related to the EIS via public meetings and other methods such as mail and fax.
3. **Conduct analysis and publish a Draft EIS** that includes the BLM and Western's analysis of multiple social and environmental factors and identifies alternatives based on the analysis.
4. Provide the public an opportunity to **review and comment on the Draft EIS**, announced in the Federal Register through a Notice of Availability.
5. Provide the public an opportunity to **review and comment on the Final EIS**, which addresses comments received on the Draft EIS and is announced in the Federal Register through a Notice of Availability.
6. **Announce the availability of the Record of Decision** in the Federal Register, describing the BLM/Western decision regarding the proposed action. The public has 30 days for protest/appeal.

For more information on the EIS process and NEPA, visit www.blm.gov and click on the "Get Involved" link.

