

# TransWest Express Transmission Project and COLORADO

The TransWest Express Transmission Project is a 600 kV high-voltage, direct current (HVDC) transmission system designed to transport high-capacity Wyoming wind energy to markets in Nevada, California and Arizona that have growing demands for cost-effective renewable power. With 3,000 MW of capacity and an approximately 730-mile route, the TWE Project will strengthen the entire western U.S. power grid. It will be one of the 10 largest HVDC transmission lines in the world.

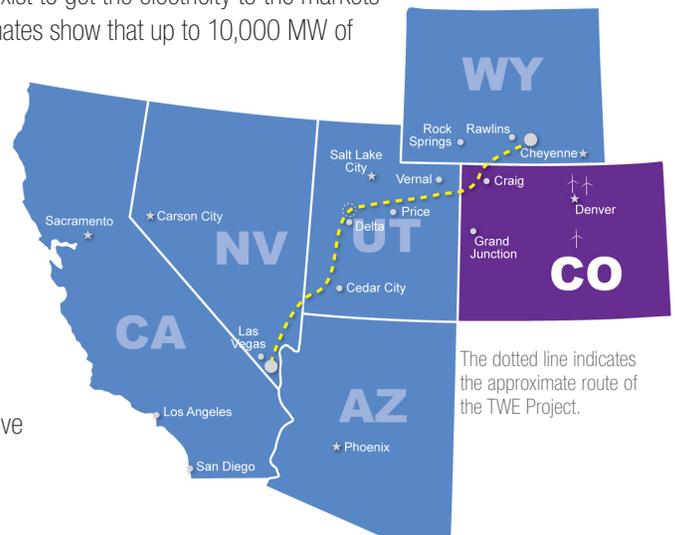
The estimated \$3 billion TWE Project is being jointly developed by TransWest Express LLC, an affiliate of The Anschutz Corporation, and by Lakewood, Colo.-based Western Area Power Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Energy. WAPA is proposing to be a joint owner in the Project, consistent with its expanded mission “to construct transmission lines to help deliver renewable resources to market.”

In 2011, the federal “Rapid Response Team for Transmission” selected the TWE Project for its program to “accelerate responsible and informed deployment of several key transmission facilities.”



## Creating jobs and economic development opportunity

- Total estimated investment in Colorado: **\$114 million to \$164 million**
- About 91 miles of HVDC structures and line with 90% of the route on federal land or co-located with existing transmission lines. In 2011, TransWest amended its proposed route in Colorado to reflect the preference of the Moffat County Commission, which in July 2011 signed a joint resolution of support for the TWE Project along with both Wyoming counties hosting the project.
- TransWest will pay an estimated \$604,000 to \$869,000 in property taxes in Moffat County, Colorado, in the first tax year, augmenting state and local government budgets. The purchase and delivery of construction materials and transmission towers also are anticipated to generate an estimated minimum of \$1.0 million in Colorado sales/use tax revenue, depending on the final ownership structure and the application of state tax laws.
- The TWE Project’s construction will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs across the west.
  - Direct construction jobs per year at peak: 675-1,050
  - Indirect jobs in the project area: 1,000
  - Long-term operations/maintenance jobs: 10-20
- The United Brotherhood of Carpenters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the International Union of Operating Engineers strongly support the development and construction of the TWE Project.
- With a Colorado-based project proponent, TWE Project development and permitting efforts have already created more than 50 full-time equivalent staff and consultant positions, including engineering services, design and biological/wildlife studies – the majority of which are located in Colorado.
- This massive infrastructure investment and construction activity will provide business and job opportunities for existing companies and for development of new businesses.
- More wind energy and other generation projects are not likely to be built in Wyoming unless more transmission paths exist to get the electricity to the markets that need it. Industry estimates show that up to 10,000 MW of wind energy may be developed in Wyoming. Many of these wind turbines will likely be built at Vestas plants in Colorado. Vestas operates a blade plant in Windsor, tower plant in Pueblo and nacelle plant in Brighton. Vestas supports the TWE Project and its ability to drive further demand for wind turbine technology.



The dotted line indicates the approximate route of the TWE Project.

**Advancing federal land use, energy and environmental goals**

- The TWE Project will deliver enough clean, sustainable energy for nearly 2 million U.S. homes.
- The wind power delivered on the TWE Project will reduce CO2 emissions by an estimated 8.2 million metric tons per year, equivalent to taking 1.5 million cars off the road.
- Will use the latest HVDC technology available to efficiently transmit large amounts of renewable energy over long distances with a relatively small environmental footprint.
- Will serve as an example of responsible transmission line development, including maximizing the use of designated energy corridors and following other linear features. About two-thirds of the 730-mile route crosses federal land.
- Will provide the shortest, most economic route between Wyoming – home of the nation's best, 40%+ capacity wind resources – and the Desert Southwest market, home of 46 million people and state Renewable Portfolio Standards.
- Will provide important new connectivity between Western Area Power Administration's Rocky Mountain and Desert Southwest regions, along with expanding access to the grid.

**Progressing forward**

The TWE Project's route intersects federal land primarily administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. In 2008, TransWest applied for rights-of-way over these lands, and an Environmental Impact Statement was prepared by BLM and WAPA as joint lead agencies, with USFS and dozens of other federal, state and local cooperating agencies.

A Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in January 2011; public scoping was completed January-April 2011; and a Draft EIS was announced July 3, 2013. After addressing comments, the agencies issued their Final EIS on April 30, 2015, identifying their preferred route. The BLM Record of Decision was issued in December 2016, with the WAPA Record of Decision issued in January 2017. Once all permits and rights-of-way are obtained, construction can begin. Construction of the project is estimated to take two to three years.

