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Western Transmission Expansion Coalition "WestTEC"

November 2026

Western Governors Association – WGA Endorses WestTEC!

- Bipartisan support from 12 Western governors
- Endorsed results of WestTEC 10-year study
- Recognized need for expanded transmission infrastructure across West
- Created permitting action coordination taskforce





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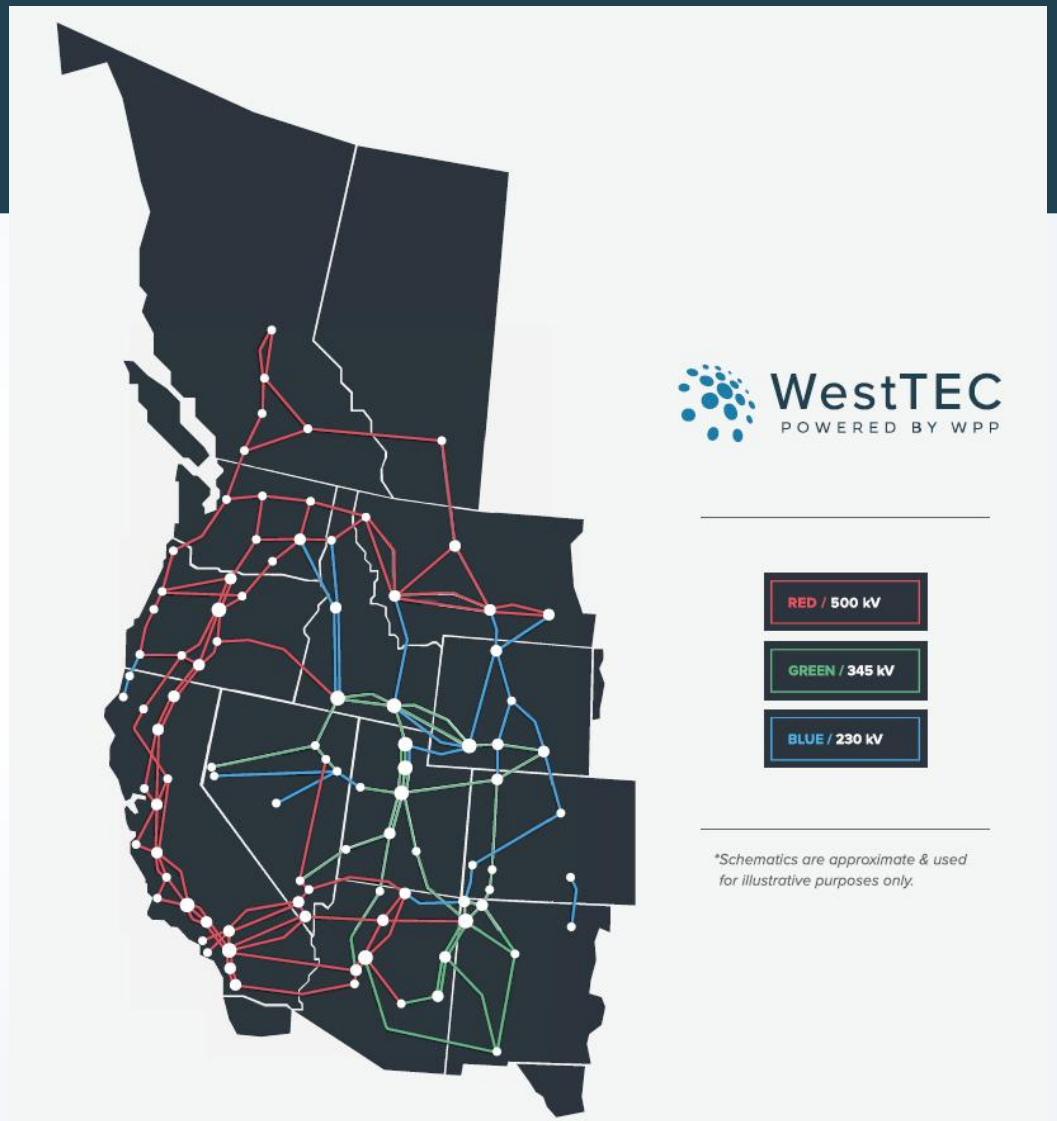
Western Transmission Expansion Coalition – "WestTEC"

- *West-wide 10 and 20-year transmission study*
- *Industry-led with unprecedented regional partner outreach (not under FERC)*
- *Goal is to produce an actionable transmission study that addresses interregional planning gap*
  - *NOT – permitting, routing or siting*
  - *NOT – a construction plan*
  - *NOT – cost allocation*



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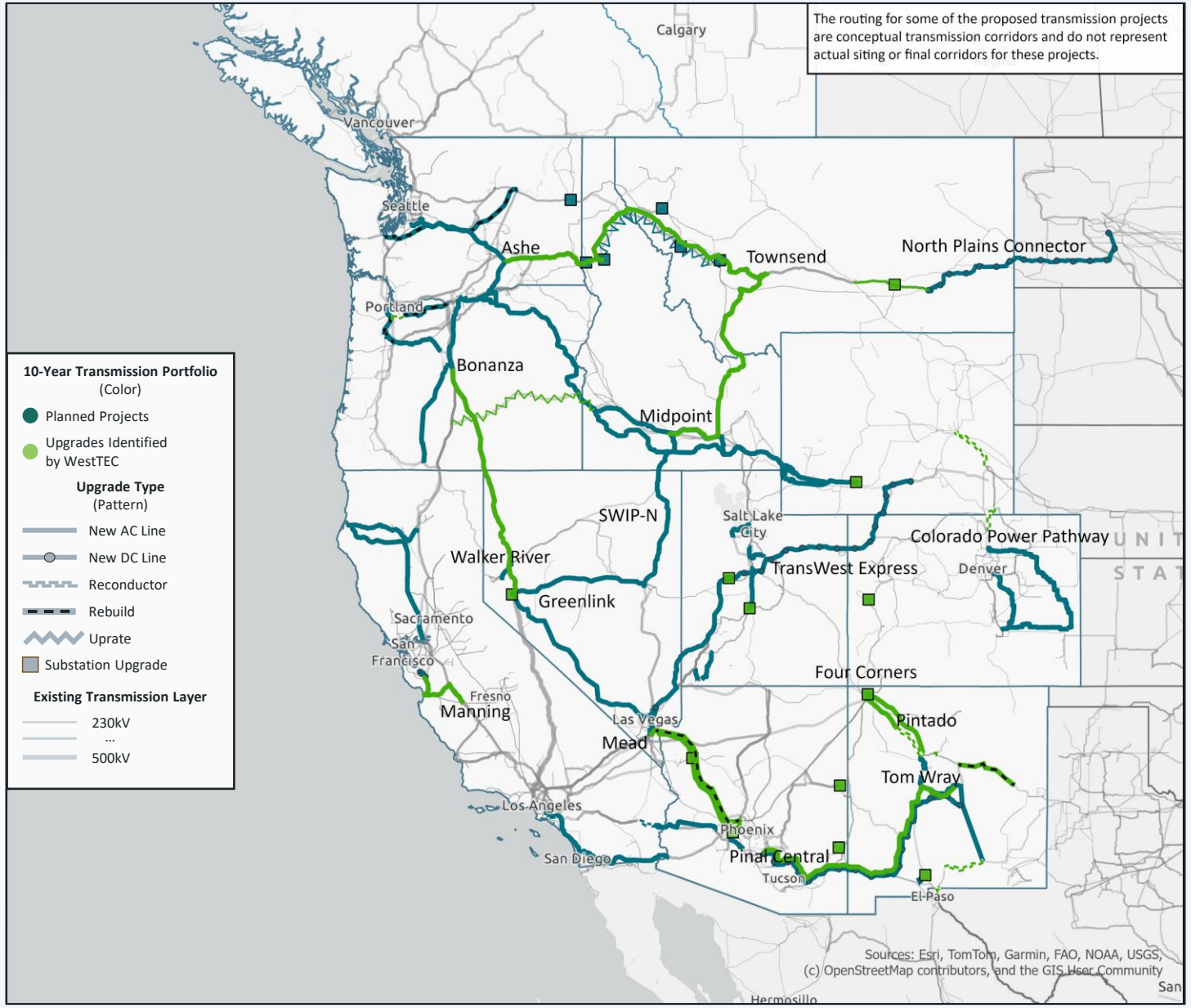
WestTEC Regional Partners – 70+

- Western Interstate Energy Board
- GridWorks
- Western Electricity Coordinating Council
- Connected Grid Initiative
- Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate
- Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Grid United
- Clean Energy Buyers Association
- Amazon Energy
- PacifiCorp
- Puget Sound Energy
- Portland General Electric
- Renewable Northwest
- Snohomish PUD
- Tucson EPC
- Grant County PUD
- *Western Power Pool*
- *GDS Consulting*
- Washington Department of Commerce
- Interwest Energy Alliance
- Invenergy
- Idaho Power Company
- NorthWestern Energy
- NV Energy
- Salt River Project
- Arizona Public Service
- Public Service Company of New Mexico
- Western Area Power Administration
- WestConnect
- NRDC
- Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition
- Public Power Council
- Colorado River Energy Distributors Association
- LS Power
- Tacoma Power
- New Mexico RETA
- Northwest Requirements Utilities
- PNGC
- Western Resource Advocates
- Clean Energy Transition Institute
- NW Energy Coalition
- From the Light Consulting
- Navajo Transitional Energy Company
- Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises
- Avangrid Renewables
- EDF Renewables
- Aypa Power
- Grid Strategies
- PG&E
- Southern California Edison
- Seattle City Light
- Black Hills Energy
- LADWP
- GridLab
- The Public Generating Pool
- California ISO
- Southwest Power Pool
- Avista
- Xcel Energy
- Powerex
- BC Hydro
- GridLiance
- Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee
- Pattern Energy
- Cascade Renewable Transmission
- Chelan County PUD
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- Whatcom County PUD
- Savion
- *E3*
- *Energy Strategies*

10-Year Horizon Portfolio:

All Upgrades Needed by 2035

Transmission Project Category		Total Line Miles	Total Estimated Cost ($M)
Planned upgrades in Portfolio		9,358	$46,648
Upgrades identified by WestTEC in Portfolio	Reliability-driven	1,156	$6,050
	Deliverability-driven	1,742	$7,239
	Economic-driven	394	$391
10-Year Horizon Portfolio Total		**12,650**	**$60,328**



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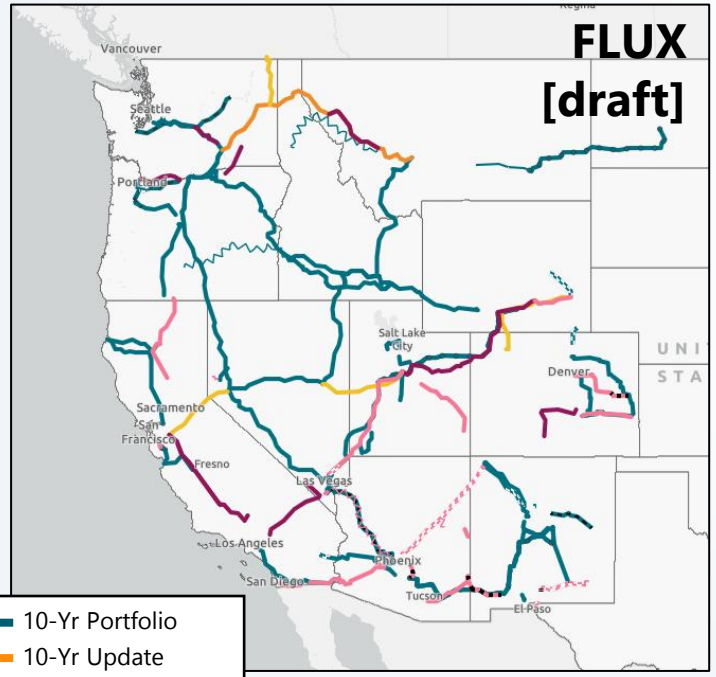
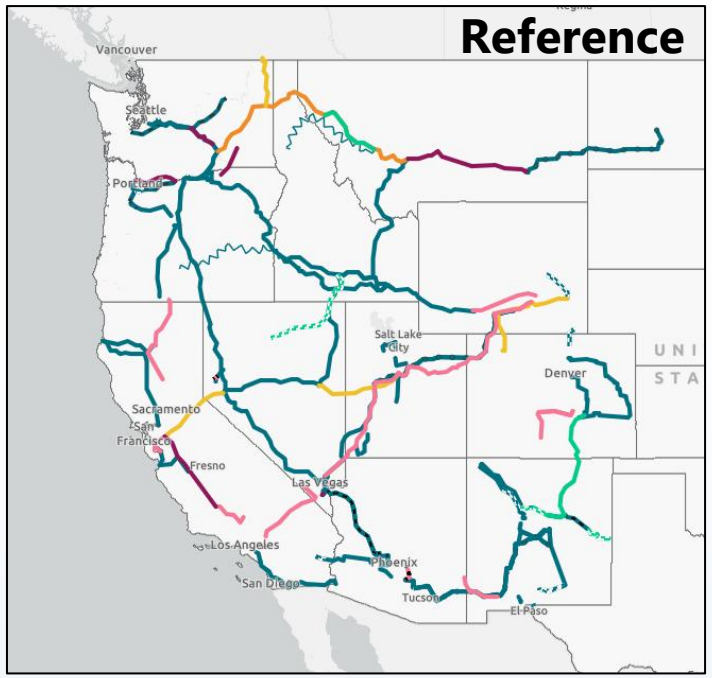
The map shows the projects in the 10-year horizon transmission portfolio. Lines on the map represent conceptual potential corridors and not actual final siting or alignment for the projects.

What transmission infrastructure will the West need by 2045? DRAFT!!

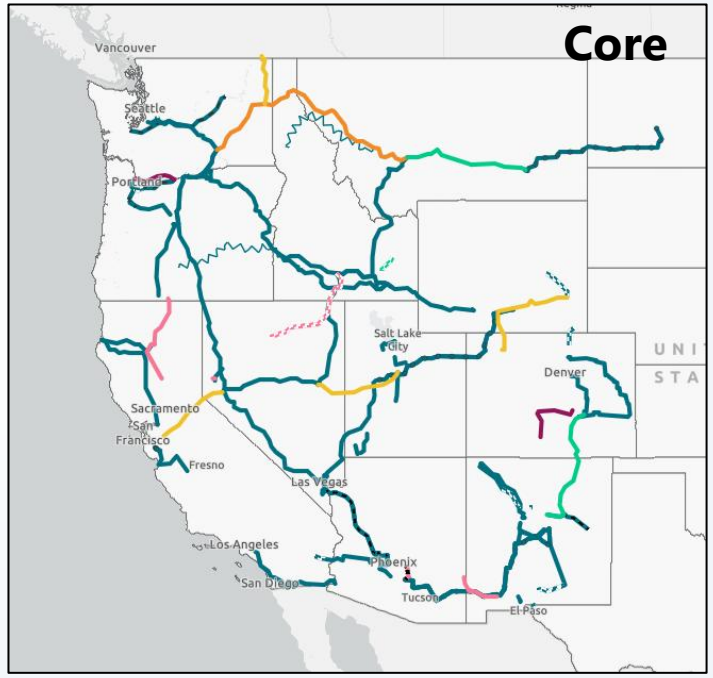
- 2045 transmission needs build on and in some cases reshape the 2035 portfolio
- Substantial overlap between scenarios: 37 of 43 Core upgrades are also included in the Reference portfolio.
- Total estimated investment is significant: ~$92B in Reference versus ~$74B in Core; Flux estimate pending.



Higher load growth (3.0%/yr); rapid renewable and storage expansion



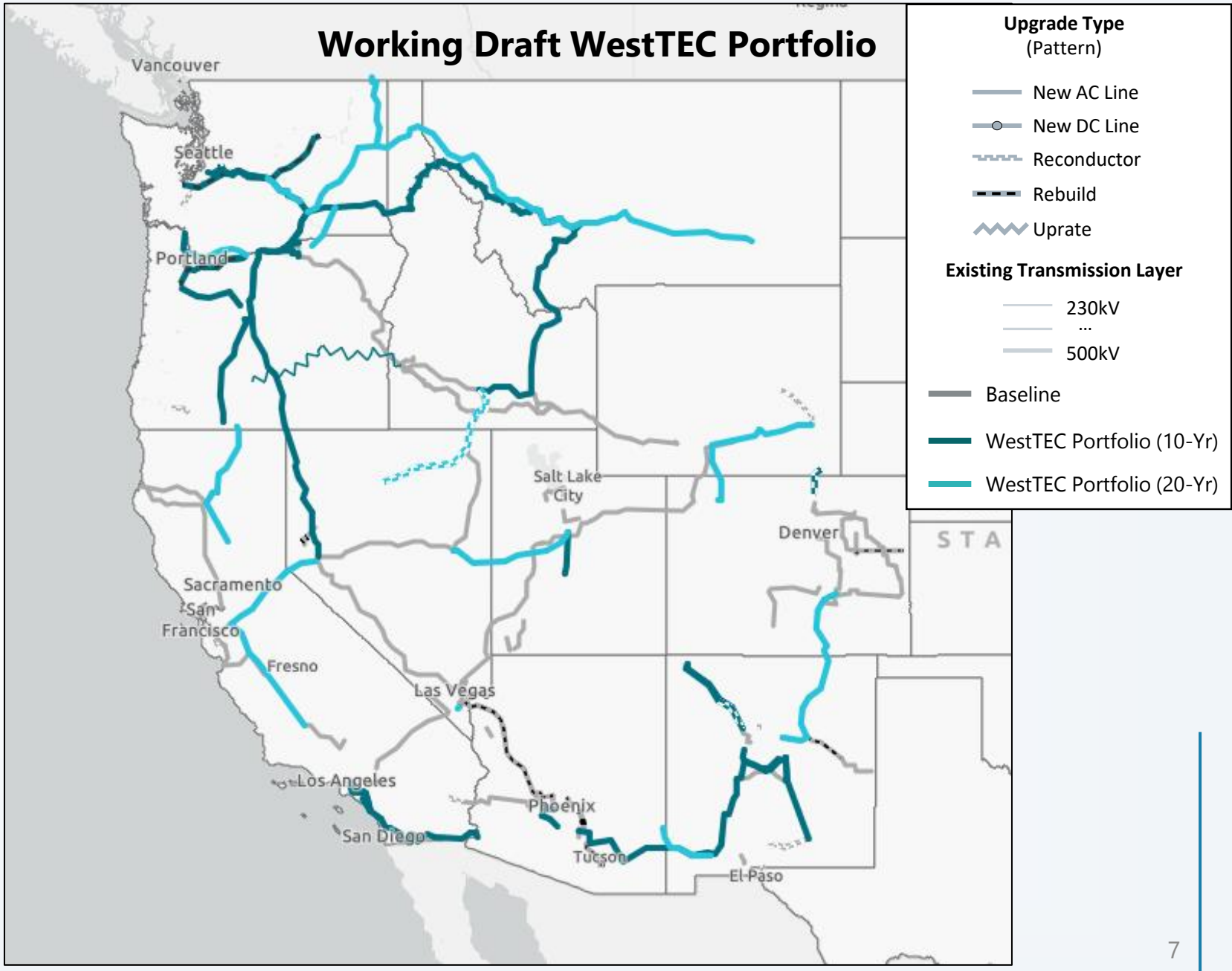
Expected load (2.2%/yr), technology, and policy trends



Lower load growth (2.0%/yr); greater reliance on firm resources and advanced technologies

Which investments are needed across multiple plausible futures? DRAFT!!

» This **"WestTEC Portfolio"** represents the common, high-value transmission investments identified (beyond committed or otherwise unavoidable baseline projects)

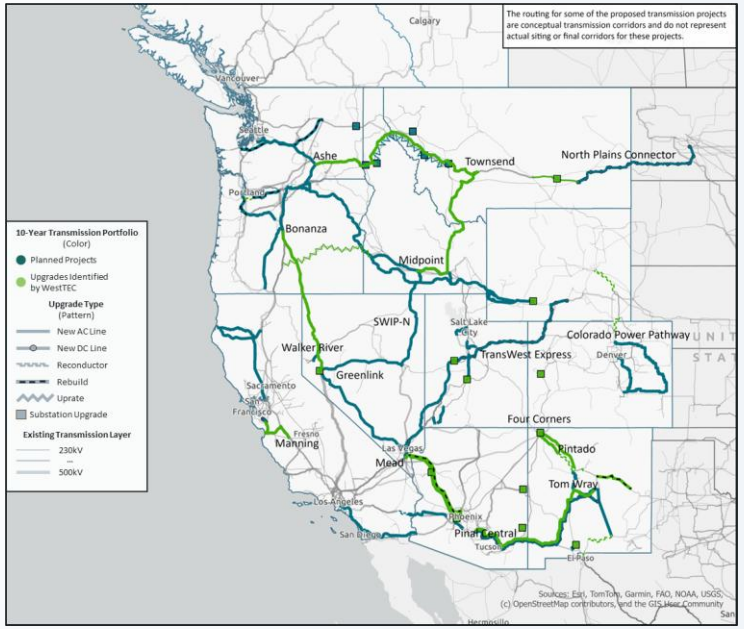


What does the transmission provide to the Western region?

The 10-year Horizon portfolio offers….

- Ability for the region to **accommodate over 30% growth in electricity demand** with a portfolio of resources consistent with Western Utility resource plans.
- Support for **10-years of sustained economic growth**.
- **Reduced threat of reliability-driven power supply disruptions** through the mitigation of over 75 steady-state power flow violations that would occur but for the construction of upgrades identified by WestTEC.
- **Operational improvements** relative to planned lines alone, including a $500 million per year decrease in power production costs
- **Reduction in grid congestion costs** and generation curtailment by 20% and 17%, respectively – these metrics are inherently conservative and do not reflect the full extent of savings and efficiencies that could occur.
- **Ability to reliably transfer an additional ~10 GW of power** across key interregional interfaces during times of system need, which can reduce the risk of power shortages and enable lower planning reserve margins.

10-year Horizon Transmission Portfolio



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How can these findings inform actual transmission investment and development?

WestTEC's value is already being proven out, with direct feeds into….

STATE POLICY & PRIORITIES

Washington Commerce / WETA

State law requires WestTEC-based high-priority transmission corridor identification.

Oregon Department of Energy

Proposes recognizing WestTEC projects as strategic state priorities for siting and support.

Wyoming Energy Authority

Statewide transmission study anticipates alignment with WestTEC planning assumptions.

UTILITY & RESOURCE PLANNING

BPA Transmission Planning

Using WestTEC 10-year PCM and power-flow datasets as expansion-study starting models.

Northwest Power Council

Using 10-year projects to inform the Ninth Power Plan transmission buildout.

Portland General Electric

Screening projects through IRP modeling and seeking evaluation through NorthernGrid.

COORDINATION & INDUSTRY UPTAKE

Western Governors & PACT

Endorsed WestTEC findings and launched a multistate permitting coordination initiative.

California ISO

References WestTEC results in its approved TPP and interregional planning discussions.

RMI

Tracks the status of 105 WestTEC projects and identifies actions to advance delivery.

TWTC

Pursuing projects that have strong alignment with needs identified in WestTEC 10- and 20-year assessments

WestTEC is establishing itself as a credible interconnection-wide planning forum, with models, findings, and projects proliferating across industry.

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Partial list of illustrative uses as of Oct. 2026 | Some processes are proposed or underway