



## BACKGROUND PAPER

### TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM PROJECTS

**Montana Alberta Tie Line. Project** - The Montana Alberta Tie Line. (MATL) transmission project is a 214-mile, 230-kilovolt (kV) alternating current (AC) merchant transmission line from Great Falls, Montana, to Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. The line has a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-rated capacity of 300 megawatt (MW) in both north and south directions and is designed to support the transmission needs of new wind power facilities in north-central Montana and power demands in Alberta.

In October 2009, Western provided a \$161 million loan to MATL/Tonbridge Inc. In late 2011, MATL/Tonbridge Inc. was acquired by Enbridge Inc., a major Canadian energy and pipeline company. On Aug. 27, 2012, Enbridge Inc. prepaid the outstanding principal and interest on the loan (about \$151 million), ending Western's involvement in the MATL project.

**Electrical District 5 – Palo Verde Hub Project** - The Electrical District 5 – Palo Verde Hub project (ED5-PVH) in Arizona's Pinal and Maricopa counties will connect a renewable rich zone south of Phoenix to the regional energy market hub in Palo Verde. The project consists of two parts:

- Purchasing transmission capacity rights on the 500-kV Southeast Valley Project (SEV) transmission line between Western's Test Track Substation and the Palo Verde market, a distance of 64 miles
- Adding 45 miles of new 230-kV transmission line from the Test Track Substation to Electrical District No. 5 (ED5) Substation south of Phoenix, Arizona. This part consists of:
  - Adding a new 230-kV circuit to an existing Western 115-kV transmission line running between ED5 and Casa Grande substations, which was already scheduled for an upgrade
  - Attaching a 230-kV circuit to a planned SEV Project 500-kV line from Western's Test Track Substation to where it intersects with the existing line

Upon completion, the line is expected to carry 156 MW west to east and 254 MW east to west. The total estimated project cost is \$91 million. Western will repay the Treasury loan with receipts from utilities that contract to use the line's capacity via a facilities use charge. Western will have 100 percent ownership for both new and upgraded facilities. Construction activities are underway, and commercial operation is planned for early 2015.

**TransWest Express Project** - The TransWest Express transmission project (TWE Project) consists of the development phase of a 725-mile, 3,000 MW, 600-kV direct current transmission line from south central Wyoming, to the El Dorado Valley south of Las Vegas, Nevada, a transmission gateway to California, Arizona and southern Nevada. The project will provide a transmission path for Wyoming wind generation to the load centers in the southwest.

On Sept. 9, 2011, Western and TransWest Express LLC (TransWest), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Anschutz Corporation, executed an agreement to jointly fund and develop the TWE Project. Western and TransWest each are contributing up to \$25 million of the total \$50 million development phase cost.

Western and TransWest are working together to complete the Western Electricity Coordinating Council studies for the path rating and determine the ideal project design and land acquisition strategies. In addition, Western and the Bureau of Land Management are joint lead agencies for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the project. The development phase is estimated to be complete in the winter of 2014.

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*Western Area Power Administration annually markets and transmits more than 25,000 gigawatt hours of clean, renewable power from 56 hydroelectric powerplants owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 15 western and central states. It is part of the Department of Energy.*

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