

## DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Matthew McVee*

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**PacifiCorp Comments Related to the Transmission Technical Input Group**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



*Via energy.ca.gov*

February 5, 2016

Robert B. Weisenmiller  
Chair  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-33  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Docket # 15-RETI-02 - RETI 2.0 Stakeholder Comments Related to the Transmission Technical Input Group**

Dear Mr. Weisenmiller:

PacifiCorp appreciates the opportunity to comment on the RETI 2.0 process. PacifiCorp presented an overview of the Energy Gateway Transmission projects at the Transmission Technical Input Group (TTIG) workshop held January 22, 2016. The presentation highlighted the objectives of the program and the benefits they would bring to the region, including access to new and existing resources and cost competitive renewables in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Oregon. The Energy Gateway Transmission projects offer an alternating current (AC) transmission configuration, which allows for transmission segments to be placed into service incrementally at dates that align with load growth and construction of renewable resources to meet specific state policy requirements. The AC transmission system is bi-directional and would also allow for import/export flexibility and resource diversity to meet different load peaks over an expanded regional footprint.

During the workshop, stakeholders were asked to address four specific questions related to the TTIG and RETI 2.0 process. PacifiCorp's responses to those questions are below:

Question 1: Is the information presented today the type of information needed to inform the RETI 2.0 Process?

PacifiCorp Response: Yes. The planning update information presented at the workshop from California planning entities, neighboring Western planning regions, Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), and interregional project developers was very appropriate and informative for the RETI 2.0 process.

Question 2: What other information and sources of information should the TTIG turn to?

PacifiCorp Response: The TTIG has identified several transmission projects that are in various stages of permitting outside of California that could provide regional and interregional access to low cost renewable resources. Many of the projects have already been submitted and studied in various regional planning forums, such as the Northern Tier Transmission Group, WECC's Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee, and others. These regional planning forums are sources of additional information on transmission projects that should be reviewed by the TTIG.

Question 3: What relevant information can you provide?

PacifiCorp Response: Since May of 2007, PacifiCorp has been permitting, constructing, and placing Energy Gateway Transmission segments into service. Permitting details, maps, line miles, in-service dates of completed segments, estimated in-service dates of remaining segments, and additional information can be found at the PacifiCorp Energy Gateway website at <http://www.pacificorp.com/tran/tp/eg.html>.

In addition to the available transmission project information, PacifiCorp expects the 500 kilovolt AC Gateway South segment (Aeolus to Clover segment F) to initially provide 600 megawatts of capacity when placed into service. When the 500 kV AC Gateway West segment (Windstar to Populus segment D) is placed into service it will provide 1500 megawatts of capacity and the Gateway South segment will increase from 600 megawatts to 1500 megawatts. The 500 kilovolt AC Gateway West segment (Populus to Hemingway segment E) will extend the segment D capabilities from eastern Idaho to central and western Idaho when placed into service after segment F and D. The costs for the Energy Gateway Transmission segments align with the Black & Veatch industry standard costs per mile that have been used to support cost estimates for WECC data.

Additional information requests will be reviewed and considered by PacifiCorp to further support the RETI 2.0 process.

Question 4: How does your proposal support/improve renewable integration in California and across the West?

PacifiCorp Response: The Energy Gateway Transmission segments have been vetted in various local and regional studies dating back to 2003 that have shown a critical need to alleviate transmission congestion on the PacifiCorp system and to move low-cost renewable resources in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, and Oregon to load centers throughout the West, including California. The AC configuration of the Energy Gateway Transmission project can be built segment by segment to meet renewable resource and load needs, and transfer renewable generation bi-directionally throughout the West.

PacifiCorp is currently participating in the California Independent System Operator's ("California ISO") Energy Imbalance Market which allows for more efficient dispatch, reduces renewable energy curtailment, and reduces the need for flexibility reserves. PacifiCorp is also working with the California ISO to explore the creation of a regional ISO. Full integration of the PacifiCorp and California ISO systems with the Energy Gateway project could provide additional opportunities to further improve renewable integration and provide regional benefits in addition to longer-term cost savings to PacifiCorp customers and retail electric customers throughout California.

PacifiCorp appreciates the opportunity to participate in the RETI 2.0 process and looks forward to continued participation in the process.

Sincerely,



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