



**James Hadley, PE**

Engineer Lead, Transmission Strategy

P: 605.608.8739

Jim.Hadley@blackhillscorp.com

PO Box 1400  
Rapid City, SD 57709-1400

February 21, 2024

Mr. Tom Carr  
Chair, Studies Subcommittee (StS)  
Western Interstate Energy Board  
1600 Broadway, Suite 1020  
Denver, CO 80202

Mr. Doug Tucker  
WECC Technical Staff  
Western Electricity Coordinating Council  
155 North 400 West, Suite 200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Re: Black Hills Corporation 2024 Annual Progress Report

In accordance with reporting guidelines by the WECC Reliability Assessment Committee (RAC), please find attached Black Hills Corporation 2024 Annual Progress Report on significant additions and changes to our system. Black Hills Colorado Electric, Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power are combined with Black Hills Power as a single NERC Registered Entity, so projects sponsored by BHCE, CLFP, and BHP would be included in this submittal. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Hadley'.

James Hadley, PE  
Engineer Lead, Transmission Strategy



**James Hadley, PE**

Engineer Lead, Transmission Strategy

P: 605.608.8739

Jim.Hadley@blackhillscorp.com

PO Box 1400  
Rapid City, SD 57709-1400

## **A. Planned Transmission and Generation Projects**

The WECC Progress Reports Policies and Procedures document is intended to provide the policies and procedures for notification and reliability assessment requirements related to projects planned within the Western Interconnection.

Projects subject to these policies and procedures include:

- All generation projects, 200 MW or greater, connected to the transmission system through step-up transformers. In the context of these policies and procedures, such projects include, but are not limited to, new generation plants, generation repower or upgrades that may significantly alter the operation of the generation facilities.
- All new and upgraded transmission facilities with voltage levels over 200 kV. Such projects include, but are not limited to, new transmission facilities, transmission re-designs or upgrades, permanent removal of existing transmission facilities, or other changes (e.g., operating procedures) that may significantly alter the operation of the transmission facilities.
- Any facilities below these thresholds that may have a significant impact on the reliability of the Western Interconnection.

Currently, Black Hills Corporation (BHC) has no planned transmission or generation projects with significant impact to the Western Interconnection for Black Hills Power, Black Hills Colorado Electric, or Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power.

## **B. Requests for Waiver of “Significant Impact Project” Status**

The WECC Project Coordination Process document indicates that a waiver may be requested based upon the following criteria:

- The purpose of the transmission project is to serve local load.
- The transmission project does not have significant impact on the operation of the Western Interconnection.

BHC is not requesting waiver of “Significant Impact” status for any new projects in 2024.

Previously, BHC has received waiver of “Significant Impact” status for the following projects:

### **I. Ready Wyoming Project (CLFP)**

BHC requested Waiver of “Significant Impact” status for the Ready Wyoming Project in 2022. The request was denied after receiving objection letters from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and Western Area Power Administration. BHC initiated the project coordination process on May 10, 2022 with a meeting held through the Colorado Coordinated Planning



**James Hadley, PE**

Engineer Lead, Transmission Strategy

P: 605.608.8739

Jim.Hadley@blackhillscorp.com

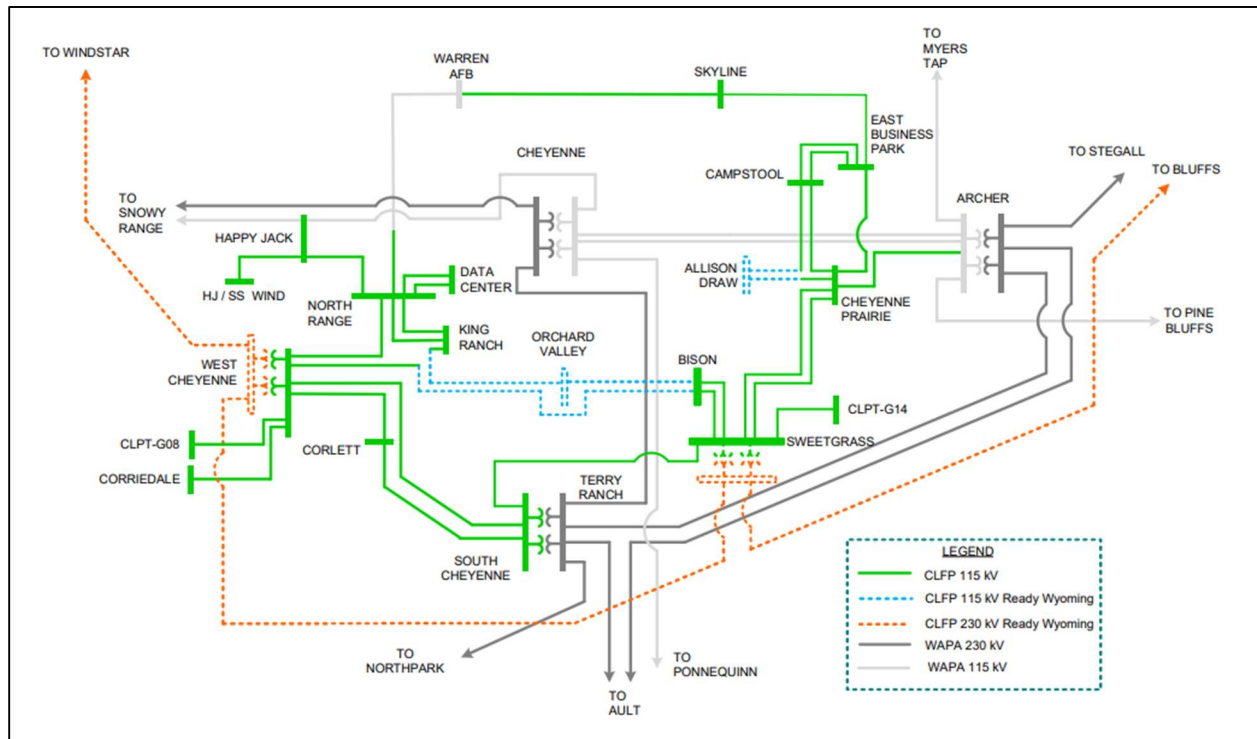
PO Box 1400  
Rapid City, SD 57709-1400

Group (CCPG). The project coordination process was completed August 29, 2022 with an email from the WECC RAC Chair stating that the Ready Wyoming project has no significant impact on the operation of the Western Interconnection.

The Ready Wyoming project entails:

- One (1) new 230 kV transmission substation
  - Bluffs 230 kV substation will tap the Westhill – Stegall 230 kV transmission line in Nebraska near the Stegall substation
- Three (3) new 230 kV transmission lines
  - Windstar (PacifiCorp) – West Cheyenne 230 kV (148 miles)
  - West Cheyenne – Sweetgrass 230 kV (14 miles)
  - Sweetgrass – Bluffs 230 kV (85 miles)
- Four (4) new 230/115 kV 200 MVA Transformers
  - Two at the West Cheyenne Substation
  - Two at the Sweetgrass Substation
- Two (2) new 115 kV distribution substations.
  - Allison Draw 115 kV will serve distribution feeders from the Crow Creek 115 kV substation
  - Orchard Valley 115 kV will serve distribution feeders from the Hilltop 115 kV substation
- Five (5) new 115 kV transmission lines
  - Tap and extend the Campstool – Cheyenne Prairie Generating Station #2 115 kV line in and out of the Allison Draw substation.
    - Allison Draw – Campstool 115 kV (5 miles)
    - Allison Draw – Cheyenne Prairie Generation Station (3 miles)
  - Bison – Orchard Valley 115 kV (5 miles)
  - Orchard Valley – King Ranch 115 kV (6 miles)
  - Bison – West Cheyenne 115 kV (12 miles)

Figure 1 is a simplified one-line diagram of the project scope included to aid in visualization.



**Figure 1: Ready Wyoming Project**

The key purpose of the Ready Wyoming project is to remove the need to continue to take NITS from WAPA. This transmission expansion project creates the opportunity to provide native load customers with network transmission service under CLFP OATT. The project connects the CLFP transmission system to the Common Use System (CUS) which also directly networks the CLFP system to some of its Designated Network Resources through Black Hills Corporation owned transmission facilities. Additional benefits seen from the project include economics, increased load serving capability, new transfer capacities, and injection capability.

The project is currently considered “planned”. Black Hills Corporation has received a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN). The individual projects associated with Ready Wyoming are planned to be phased in as construction is completed, but the overall project is targeted to be in-service by the end of 2025.



**James Hadley, PE**

Engineer Lead, Transmission Strategy

P: 605.608.8739

Jim.Hadley@blackhillscorp.com

PO Box 1400  
Rapid City, SD 57709-1400

## **II. Turkey Creek Solar Project (BHCE)**

The Turkey Creek Solar project is a 200 MW solar facility consisting of sixty (60) 3.69 MVA photovoltaic inverters with a planned in-service date in 2026. This project is in the Black Hills Colorado Electric (BHCE) service territory near the city of Penrose, Colorado. The project is planned to interconnect on the newly constructed North Penrose – Pueblo West 115 kV line. The Turkey Creek Solar project occupied the BHCT-G29 queue position and has a signed LGIA. This generation project is not expected to have a significant impact on the operation of the Western Interconnection. The project was granted Waiver of “Significant Impact” status in 2022. A report detailing the study results is available on the BHCT OASIS page at: <http://www.oasis.oati.com/bhct/index.html>.

## **C. Transmission Projects Completed, On-Hold or Cancelled**

The following project outlined in previous BHC Annual Progress Reports was completed in 2023.

### **I. Lange – Lookout - Wyodak 230 kV Line Rebuild (BHP)**

The conductor type along the 140-mile 230 kV path from Lange – Lookout – Wyodak is currently 1272 ACSR, but aged infrastructure drives the need to replace poles, and other damaged equipment along the path. Additionally, this project gives the opportunity to achieve a higher operating temperature by increasing line clearance. This rebuild does not have a significant impact upon the operation of the Western Interconnection. The first stage of the project was completed in 2022 and the final stage of the project was completed in 2023.