



555 Seventeenth Street
Suite 2400
Denver, CO 80202
Tel 303.298.1000
Fax 303.299.1356

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 23, 2024

Tom Carr, Chair
WECC Studies Subcommittee (StS)

Doug Tucker, Staff Engineer
WECC Studies Subcommittee (StS)

Subject: TransWest Express Project: Annual Supplemental Progress Report

Dear Mr. Carr and Mr. Tucker:

This letter is the 2024 Annual Progress Supplemental Report for the TransWest Express Project (TWE Project). TransWest Express LLC (TransWest) has brought forward to the WECC Path Rating process two alternative system configurations for the same overall TWE Project development effort. In 2021, TransWest conducted a FERC-approved TWE Project Open Solicitation that confirmed the TWE AC and DC Project (Paths III-16, III-18, and III-19) configuration best meets the needs for new transmission capacity between the Desert Southwest and Rocky Mountain regional markets.

The TWE Project Path III-13 configuration should remain modeled as “out-of-service” within the WECC Base Case. TransWest will notify the WECC Studies Subcommittee if the primary development focus switches to this alternative configuration.

TWE AC and DC Project Description

The TWE AC and DC Project includes three new linked segments that each represent a WECC Path, including:

1. a 405-mile, 3,000 MW, 500 kV DC line from eastern Wyoming to central Utah.
2. a 278-mile, 1,500 MW 500 kV AC line from central Utah to Crystal in southern Nevada;
and
3. a 49-mile, 1,680 MW 500 kV AC line from Crystal to the Eldorado Valley 500 kV facilities.

The TWE AC and DC Project will be constructed in two stages: Stage 1 includes the TWE DC line (segment 1) and the 500 kV AC line from central Utah to Crystal (segment 2); Stage 2 includes the 500 kV AC line from Crystal to the Eldorado Valley. Stage 1 is planned to be operating by 4Q/2028 with Stage 2 operating in 4Q/2029.

TWE AC and DC Project Status

The TWE Project is in the advanced stage of development, having received a Right-of-Way Grant from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an Electric Transmission Line Easement from the U.S. Forest Service, a License for the Electric Transmission Line from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Nevada, and the requisite major permits from Nevada, Wyoming and 14 counties to be traversed by the Project. The TWE Project has secured 100 percent of the rights-of-way for the 732-mile route. Early construction work started on the Project in 2023.

System Impact Studies for each of the four transmission interconnection points for Paths III-16 and III-18 have been completed. Results from these preliminary studies have confirmed the Phase 2 WECC Path Rating study results and identified the need for a scope change for the Path III-18 Plan of Service (POS). The new POS includes additional interconnections between the TWE-Crystal substation and: 1) the Harry Allen to Eldorado 500 kV Transmission Line (HAE Line); and 2) the Crystal North 500 kV substation. The Project Scope Change revisions were analyzed in the summer/fall of 2023 and studies were approved by the PRG on October 27, 2023.

The first elements of the TWE Project are planned to be placed in service in 2028.

Contact Information

Any questions about this report or the TWE Project can be directed to:

David Smith
Director, Engineering & Operations
TransWest Express, LLC
555 17th Street, Suite 2400
Denver, Colorado, 80202
(303) 299-1545
David.smith@tac-denver.com

Sincerely,

David Smith

David Smith