

**MINUTES (DRAFT)**  
**Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force (RTCTF)**  
**April 26, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m.**

The Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force held a public meeting on April 26, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the following locations:

Legislative Counsel Bureau, 401 South Carson Street, Room 4100, Carson City, Nevada 89701; via videoconference at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington, Suite 4401, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101.

1. **Call to order, roll call and establishment of quorum.** Senator Chris Brooks, Chairman, opened the meeting at 9:07 a.m. and opened this agenda item.

<b>Task Force Members in Las Vegas</b>	<b>Task Force Members in Carson City</b>	<b>Task Force Members Absent</b>
Senator Chris Brooks	Carolyn Turner	Jeremy Newman
Assemblywoman Melissa Hardy	Luke Papez	Kostan Lathouris
Eric Witkoski	Alise Porto	
Richard Perkins	John Seeliger	
Mona Tierney-Llyod	Haley Williamson	
Eric Hansen	Ernest Figueroa	
Rebecca Wagner	Carolyn Barbash (via Zoom)	
Elizabeth Becker		
Leslie Mujica		
David Bobzien		
Cameron Dyer		
Kris Sanchez		

2. **Public Comment and Discussion.** Chair Brooks opened this agenda item.

**Mr. John Williams:** Mr. Chairman, members of the Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force. I am with the Bonneville Power Administration, and I would like to make some brief comments. I have been involved with Nevada since the late 90's, so I am familiar with many things that go on in this state. We have four utilities that provide electricity service in this state. Wells Electric, Harney Electric, Raft River Co-Op, and Surprise Valley. Let me just briefly mention, Bonneville is a federal PMA hired under the Department of Energy. We are self-funding, and we provide transmission service as well as electricity service to over 140 co-ops. Bonneville, as you know, is involved in a lot of the Western Energy Imbalance Market activities. Next week we plan on joining Energy Imbalance Market, and we hope to be a final member in providing hydro services. Mr. Chairman that concludes my brief remarks, and I stand to answer any questions.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Mr. Williams. I appreciate you making the trip to Las Vegas and joining us today. I'm sure we will use you as a resource.

**Ms. Sarah Steinberg:** Good morning, everyone, and thank you for the opportunity to make public comment today. I am a principal at Advanced Energy Economy, a national association of businesses working to advance policy that makes energy more reliable, secure, clean, and affordable. Our membership includes companies that develop clean energy generation technology, distribution and transmission lines, and large energy users looking to meet sustainability goals. The formation of a western RTO or Regional Transmission Organization is a top priority for our member companies across the technology spectrum. As Nevada transitions to a modern high-performing grid served by a diverse and renewable energy mix, counter collaboration with other states can deepen energy cost savings and enhance reliability while making sure the electric grid serves customers efficiently. Harnessing a market-driven regional approach to coordinate energy resource sharing between Nevada and neighboring states will save ratepayer dollars and will significantly reduce pollution while helping to keep the lights on during extreme weather events. At the end of the day, participation in a Western RTO is the only affordable and reliable way for Nevada to meet its energy policy goals. But it's not only necessary, it's also good economic policy. An expanded regional grid that offers lower energy cost and market transparency creates economic opportunity for the state by driving business expansion and relocation into the state and renewable energy development, all of which puts Nevadans to work in good infrastructure jobs and injects more dollars into the local economy. Because of the (*inaudible*) sensitivity, most notably with the passage of SB448 last session and the approval of NV Energy's new Greenlink Transmission Project, Nevada is at the center of the RTO conversation in the West. AEE is thrilled to see this Task Force get off the ground and appreciates your leadership in stepping up to serve and tackle this challenging but critical issue. We hope to be a resource to you all as these conversations move forward, so please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your time.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Ms. Steinberg.

### **3. Open Meeting Law Review – Anthony Walsh, Deputy Attorney General.**

Deputy Attorney General, Anthony Walsh delivered his presentation on Open Meeting Laws, NRS 241. Presentation materials can be found here:

[https://ag.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/agnv.gov/Content/Issues/Open%20Meeting%20Law%20Training%20with%20Leg%20Update%208-22-2019\\_RMB.pdf](https://ag.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/agnv.gov/Content/Issues/Open%20Meeting%20Law%20Training%20with%20Leg%20Update%208-22-2019_RMB.pdf).

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Mr. Walsh. As you know, we have different rules in the Legislature, and the Chair has broad discretion to do a lot of different things, so I might get a little sideways a couple of times, so I'm glad you're here to keep me in line. Can we take agenda items out of order?

**Mr. Anthony Walsh:** Yes, agenda items may be moved around in the agenda, however, new agenda items may not be presented out of nowhere.

#### **4. Opening Remarks by the Chair - Senator Chris Brooks, RTCTF Chair.**

##### **a. Review of bill, timeline, and requirements.**

My name is Senator Chris Brooks, I represent Senate District 3 in the heart of Las Vegas, and I am the Chair of this committee. This committee was created by Senate Bill 448, and I'll walk through that a little bit later. I just wanted to give you some of my background and some of my interest in this subject. My first job in the world was building electrical distribution systems at Nellis Air Force Base and on national security sites around the State of Nevada for my family's company. I went on to be a utility contractor, building transmission distribution systems for gas and electric utilities which really led me into one of the careers where I really pivoted back about 22 years ago, starting one of the first solar EPC companies here in the country. I located it right here in Southern Nevada. I grew that company and worked through regulated utilities and worked as a contractor and ended up at a rural electric co-op as one of their executive vice presidents and part of my tasks was to work with the California Independent System Operator, California Energy Commission, and the Public Utilities Commission, California Legislature, and the California Resources Board. Which gave me a broad understanding of some of the limitations and some of the opportunities in the west, and that pivoted me into where I currently am in the policy world, where I thought we, as a state, could take full advantage of our position here in the western United States as kind of the center of the western electric transmission world, geographically, so that led to Senate Bill 448 that I sponsored and got bipartisan support for from the Governor and passed in the 2021 legislative session. I'll walk through 448 very quickly and talk about the components of that bill and how that bill affects this task force. It was kind of an omnibus energy bill that did quite a few things, but for the purpose of this task force, it doubled the transmission, and I'll get into some of the sections a little bit later, but it also dealt with transportation electrification, energy efficiency standards, rooftop solar pump standards, carbon-free electricity resource planning processes, energy storage, economic development electric rate rider program, and a few utility regulatory issues as well, we had everything you could imagine in that bill. I have to thank Bob Johnston, who was instrumental in both tracking the bill and getting it through the process and it was quite an effort and had a lot of input from a lot of people in this room, so I want to thank everyone that did participate. Senate Bill 448 and the provisions that pertain to our work here today are posted on the Governor's Office of Energy's website, as well as all the other materials that we will be looking at today and all the materials we will be using as we move forward in this process.

I'd like to thank the Governor's Office of Energy for all their hard work in putting this meeting together and also for facilitating the conversation and hosting the website that's going to have all this information on it. We have with us today, Director Bobzien, and I appreciate that, and Laura Wickham, who did a tremendous amount of work, and I appreciate everything you've done.

##### **b. Expectations for Task Force's work and for the 2022 report.**

Senate Bill 448 created the task force that we are serving on today. The legislature and Governor reaffirmed that we need this and that, as you can see, especially folks who work in this space, Nevada is uniquely positioned to be at the center of the electrical transmission world here in the west. A more robust and interconnected transmission system provides greater national security, resiliency for our State, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and lower electrical costs. It also diversifies our economy and grows our economy by facilitating renewable energy development and making growth possible here in this State.

Nevada needs to take advantage of our abundant resources, and we need to act fast. That is why it's so important we start this work today and get towards our goal. Transmission takes a long time to plan, develop, permit, and construct. I see a lot of professionals in the room today who know this only too well. We are not alone in this. We are in a race with our neighboring states to take full advantage of our position here in the west. This benefits the State's economy, and it provides tax dollars and economic investment opportunities in the State of Nevada. It provides more secure electrical systems and lower costs for our residents, and as the climate changes on us and summers are getting hotter, and our super peak is getting bigger and bigger, it's becoming more of an issue for us. Being interconnected in the west will help with that issue, and it will create thousands of high-paying jobs. There are billions of dollars of private capital waiting to be invested in the State of Nevada that only new transmission can facilitate. That is a huge benefit and opportunity for our State, and it helps with our national security. Energy security is national security. I don't think it's any more obvious than that right now while there are conflicts around the world that are funded by and largely and in part created by energy issues. Having a more robust and interconnected electrical system in the west will help our nation be far more secure and help the west play a role in that national security, and it helps our environment. Decarbonization through better utilization of existing thermal power plants as well as through the development of renewable energy allows for electrification of fuel switching electrification of loads that have a tremendous amount of opportunity to benefit Nevada, and it gives us access to zero-carbon energy like wind and hydroelectric that we don't have in our own State. If we are going to meet our climate goals and do it in a cost-effective manner, we have to work with our neighboring states, and the only way to do that is through interconnected transmission systems and well-coordinated transmission systems.

Senate Bill 448 omnibus energy bill got bipartisan support by the Governor, and it was supported by electric utilities, large customers, small customer groups, supergroups, the renewable energy industry, organized labor, chambers of commerce, and most environmental organizations. If you look at Senate Bill 448 sections, 15 – 34 are the sections that deal with transmission. That's pages 22 – 25 of the bill. I believe it's a 51-page bill, but 22 – 25 are the sections that deal with the transmission issue that then sets up the need for and creates this task force. Section 30 directs the transmission provider, as defined by this bill, to do the following, although I'm not going to read this because it's quite a bit, and you can read it offline or while we're in this meeting. Section 31 creates this task force, Section 32 defines how the task force will operate, Section 33 lays out the objectives of this task force, and Section 34 directs the Governor's Office of Energy to facilitate and support the task force.

Later in the agenda, we will discuss the possible creation of working groups. I want the members and anyone that are stakeholders and that aren't members but are stakeholders or have an interest or members of the public that express an interest to keep this in mind as I walk through what those potential working groups could be.

**c. Description of task in Section 33 and how they may intersect with working groups.**

Section 33 says the task force shall advise the Governor and the Legislature on a) the potential cost and benefits to transmission providers and their customers in this State by forming or joining a regional transmission organization which provides access to an organized, competitive regional wholesale electricity market and b) policies that will accommodate entrants by transmission providers

in this State into a regional transmission organization by January 1, 2030. January 1, 2030 is outlined earlier in the bill. And c) Policies that will site transmission facilities necessary to achieve this State's clean energy goals and economic development goals or d) potential areas in this State where growth in demand for electricity or growth in renewable energy generation would be accommodated by additional transmission or regional market opportunities and lastly business and industries that could locate in this State as a result of this State's position in an organized competitive regional wholesale electricity market. Senate Bill 448 section 3 subsection 2 says the task force shall not later than November 30th, 2022, and every two years thereafter submit to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next regular session of the legislature a report on its actives including any recommended legislation needed to enable entrance by transmission providers in this State into a regional transmission organization. Those five areas of section 33 of Senate Bill 448 are what we're trying to investigate and get to the bottom of and get more education on through this task force process, and our work product is in section 2, and that is that report. The requirements of the report are intentionally vague, and I think that they will depend on this ever-changing, fast-moving picture of energy in the west but also will be based on the presentations and the knowledge that we gain as a task force over the next year or nine months or so between now and when the report will be made. We will have another meeting before now and when that report will be created, and I believe we'll have to have a meeting to approve that report before we send it to the Legislature and the Governor's Office so that policymakers like myself and like Assemblywoman Hardy, who's joined us today, can possibly make legislative recommendations if necessary. Often, legislation is not necessary, but we'll make that determination based on where we're at come to the 2023 legislative session. If you'll notice that the timing is such that it informs right before bill draft deadlines through the 2023 legislative session.

I will move on to our next agenda item. I think I've covered the expectations of the bill but again, refer back to the bill in sections 31 – 34 to get a clear understanding of those three pages of that bill.

## **5. Introduction of Task Force Members**

**Chair Brooks:** The next agenda item is an introduction of task force members, and I will start with Director Bobzien.

Director Bobzien, could you please introduce yourself, what it is that you do or who you represent on this task force and what interests you have or want to learn from this task force.

**Director Bobzien:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. David Bobzien, Director of the Governor's Office of Energy for Governor Steve Sisolak. We are very excited at the office to be supporting this task force and this effort. We were supportive of this legislation during the session as representatives of the administration on this topic. The introduction for our office, as many of you are certainly familiar with the Public Utilities Commission in this conversation around markets and transmission, we are the small but mighty policy shop that works on these issues. Behind the scenes, we are very involved in regional conversations with other western states around market evolution, transmission issues. We have a regular cadence of engagement with the California Public Utilities Commission on procurement decisions that they make relating to renewable resources that they procured here in Nevada, and that certainly also helps transmission development decisions that are made by CAISO and others.

Finally, looking ahead to this new era of discussion around wholesale electricity markets that was brought upon by Senator Brooks and the Legislature's passage of SB 448 from last session. We are the behind-the-scenes support for this task force, as has been mentioned, and certainly first and foremost to post materials, agendas, etcetera to the website. You have been introduced to Laura Wickham. You will get to know her a lot more as our work continues. She is point in our office for the work, but you can look forward to our website providing materials and notices, etcetera that you need.

As Mr. Walsh, our Deputy Attorney General pointed out earlier, we are also here to help with the nuts and bolts of communication and make sure we're not getting afoul of the open meeting law. The caution to resist "reply all" on email communications is important and tough but rest assured that we'll be working with the Chair on a regular basis. If there is information that members need to know, we'll be getting it out to you to keep you out of trouble. Certainly, as the work progresses for working groups, creation of the (*inaudible*), etcetera, we're at the ready to assist with that.

This is for all of the reasons that the Chair laid out, the advantages of the (*inaudible*) to Nevada, and the further evolution of wholesale electricity markets. We are also very excited about that. I think as I approach this, the opportunity for having the public discussion about these advantages, educating members of Nevada, be they customers, be they, ratepayers, be they developers, etcetera, as to why we should continue all working together towards this evolutionary goal is a great opportunity. To that end, we're very excited about the public conversation that this task force kicks off, and we look forward very much to working with everyone on the task force.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you Director Bobzien, now I will go to my right to Assemblywoman Hardy.

**Assemblywoman Hardy:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's an honor to be here today and to be part of this task force. I represent Assembly District 22, which is Henderson, sort of the Great Valley Ranch area and around south down towards Boulder City. This is actually an area, a space that is not very familiar to me. I haven't been on any committees or done much work in the energy sector, so I'm excited to learn from everyone. It has been said multiple times, with the passage of SB 448, this is something that will benefit Nevada as a whole, our citizens, our businesses, and so I'm excited to be part of the conversation and learn all that there is to learn and how we can best achieve that here in our State.

I look forward to working with everyone and, again, just learning the vast amount of information that this covers. Thank you.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you Assemblywoman. I will move on to Mr. Sanchez.

**Mr. Sanchez:** Thank you, Chair. Chris Sanchez, Deputy Directory of Governor's Office of Economic Development. Our interest is two-fold. We looked at resiliency coming out of the pandemic and issued a report back in 2021 about the long-term vitality of our State. One of the things that we focused on was infrastructure, and that's defined broadly, railroads, pipelines, transit, supply chain networks, ecosystems, and of course, energy is on that list. One of the things that we recognized was that Nevada needs to start investing time and staff time into looking at what we would need to make

sure this State was strong moving forward and that we grow jobs in these critical industries like energy and transmission and enhanced networks and ecosystems and supply chains and transit networks.

I am looking forward to the discussion and appreciate the time to be here.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you Mr. Sanchez. Up next, we have Mr. Witkoski.

**Mr. Witkoski:** Yes, sir, Mr. Witkoski from the Colorado River Commission, Executive Director. We appreciate the invitation to be on the committee. We operate similar to Bonneville. We rely on the Western Area Power Administration for transmission, and they have a pretty large footprint in the West. They are all evaluating the markets, where one part of the *lift* has already gone to an RTO, and others are evaluating it. Those organizations work through customer-driven (*inaudible*) and studies, so we're participating in that, so this plays very well with the activities we have. I have some experienced folks on my staff, Gail Bates, who has been with my office for 20 years and has worked with Nevada Energy and is very familiar with our transmission. We appreciate being here, thanks.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you Mr. Witkoski. Next, we have Ms. Tierney-Lloyd.

**Ms. Tierney-Lloyd:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mona Tierney-Lloyd. I am head of US policy for Enel North America. Enel has developed some projects in Nevada, most notably our geothermal projects, Stillwater and Salt Wells. Stillwater is also a combined solar plus geothermal facility. Enel has a very strong interest in the development of a regional transmission organization and is very supportive of the legislation that passed that created this task force and in moving Nevada in the direction of a regional transmission organization for a lot of the reasons Mr. Chairman, that you expressed in terms of providing economic opportunity, economic development, efficient use of a system, sharing of resources across a broader network, increasing reliability encouraging development of all resource types including clean energy resources and then also providing an avenue for development of demand *side* technologies distributed storage and electric vehicle charging.

Having a strong transmission grid is the backbone for providing development of those resources. I'm pleased to be part of this group and look forward to working together.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you Ms. Tierney-Lloyd. Up next, we have Ms. Becker.

**Ms. Becker:** Thank you, Senator Brooks, I am Elizabeth Becker, and I am honored to be representing the general public on this task force. I am a product of UNLV's Environmental Science Master's Program. I have, in the past, taught middle school and college-level environmental studies. I am very interested in planning, sustainability, climate change mitigation, and the move away from fossil fuels. The only way to do that is to have strong transmission so that we can (*inaudible*)our renewable energy resources. And I think that Nevada is poised to be a leader here, and as you said, we have our geography and also the forward-thinking and planning. So, I am pleased to be on this task force and look forward to learning a lot.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Ms. Becker. Up next, we have Ms. Mujica.

**Ms. Mujica:** Good morning, my name is Leslie Mujica, and I am the Executive Director of Las Vegas Power Professionals. I work for a non-profit that promotes workforce development in our community. I do believe we can become the leaders of renewable energy and electrification. But, most importantly, as Senator Brooks mentioned, there are billions of dollars ready to be spent and invested in our state that will create not only high-paying jobs but careers, long-term careers, and that is one of my priorities and everything that everybody said. Thank you, it's an honor to be here.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Ms. Mujica. As a former MICA contractor and a current IBW member, I appreciate your representation here. Mr. Perkins

**Mr. Perkins:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Richard Perkins, President of the Perkins Company. I am here as a representative of a large-scale solar industry, having been associated with NextEra Energy Resources for more than a decade. I find energy issues fascinating, which is probably an indicator that I need some mental help. My energy experience dates back to a stint in the Nevada Legislature in 1999 when we first (*inaudible*) regulated the state and in 2001 when we re-regulated the state after the Western Energy Crisis and passed the first Renewable Portfolio Standards and dealing with that and all of the solar issues that we've been grappling with for the last decade or so.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Speaker Perkins. You did have a wild ride there. That was an interesting time in the west and in Nevada. You bring a unique perspective because of that. Next up, we have Mr. Hansen.

**Mr. Hansen:** Thank you, good morning, Chair. My name is Erik Hansen. I am the Chief Sustainability Officer for Wynn Resorts, and I'm here representing Gaming Resort Industries. As one of the, or the largest, employers in the state as well as some of the largest energy users, we have a very vested interest in energy issues throughout Nevada and throughout the west.

We are looking forward to diversified sources and economic benefits associated with greater access to those markets. My background and being involved in the energy industry in Nevada for the last 20 years, so this is something I am very passionate about and close to. Thank you Chair.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Mr. Hansen. Up next, is Ms. Wagner.

**Ms. Wagner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Rebecca Wagner, President of Wagner Strategies. I just calculated this will be my 25th year in energy policy in this state, so I started when I was young. Most notably, I spent nearly a decade on the Nevada PUC. Prior to that, I served as Governor Guinn's Energy Advisor, and the Director of the Office of Energy, and working for a developer in the geothermal arena, long before Enel came to Nevada but sharing a lot of the same folks that I grew up with in the industry. This topic of transmission and regional markets is near and dear to my heart and became my passion when I was at the commission, serving on the Energy Imbalance Market Transitional Committee. We were charged with developing the governance model for EIM, which has turned out to be a real-time market that has proven tremendous benefits for Nevadans since 2014. I continued that work serving on the Governance Review Committee as we evaluated the next generation of Governance as we moved into potential (*inaudible*) ahead market with ISO. There are a lot of opportunities for Nevada to export its renewable resources and import resources like wind from other locations to keep costs down for our customers. Transmission is a key

piece to that, but also an effective, efficient market will drive down cost and move us toward decarbonization faster, more efficiently, and more reliably. I am honored to be on the team here and look forward to working with you all.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Ms. Wagner. Next, we have up Mr. Cameron Dyer.

**Mr. Dyer:** Thank you, Chair. My name is Cameron Dyer. I am the Managing Senior Staff Attorney with Western Resource Advocates. Western Resource Advocates is a conservation organization focused on climate change solutions that sustain the environment, economy, and people of the west. What interests me about being on this task force is that I'm an engineer, so I enjoy the complexity of the grid and all the challenges involved. I'm also an attorney, and I enjoy the policy perspectives and discussions. At Western Resource Advocates, we have a strong policy group focused on regional markets. That's one of the things that interests us organizationally. We want to focus on the decarbonization policies that can come out of this working group. I am also interested in the impacts that come out of this to the Public Utilities Commission, as that's where I spend a lot of my time. I am also interested in how additional transmission and new projects impact my *duties* in this state. I am very pleased to be here. Thank you, Chair.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Mr. Dyer. Now I'll go up to Carson City. I'm going to start with Ms. Turner.

**Ms. Turner:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm Carolyn Turner here today, representing the Nevada Rural Electric Association. We have ten consumer-owned utility members that offer a different perspective. I believe everyone on this task force and in the room here in Carson City and Vegas is familiar with our investor utility NV Energy, but you may be less familiar with the folks at the end of the line. Our organization represents consumer and utilities, electric *co-ops*, which our Chair worked for one of those here in the state, as well as power districts, and municipal systems. We're here to be part of this discussion and learn a lot, as fellow task force members have mentioned. Our guys have a different perspective, being at the end of the line, operating not-for-profit, at cost. All of our decisions that we make about the transmission system here in the state have a big impact on the communities that we serve. Also, I'm excited to bring to this task force a regional perspective in and of ourselves. Not only do our members serve communities throughout Nevada, but we are also in Utah, Oregon, Idaho, and the State of California, so hopefully, we can bring perspectives from all of those states and communities that we're serving.

I am looking forward to this process, and thank you, Mr. Chair. I will also note that Chair Williamson is chairing a meeting of the Public Utilities Commission, so she'll not be present to do her introductions.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Ms. Turner. Thank you for representing public power. Up next, we have Mr. Luke Papez.

**Mr. Papez:** Good morning, Chair. Luke Papez. I am the Senior Director with LS Power. I appreciate the opportunity to participate on this task force. Our firm has experience developing, owning, and operating transmission facilities in several RTOs, including the Midcontinent ISO, PJM, the New York ISO, ERCOT, and the California ISO. I appreciate the opportunity to bring our perspective as a

national independent transmission developer to this task force. Our success in those other markets is a result of our ability to develop innovative and cost-effective solutions to solve transmission constraints which in turn provides significant value to ratepayers in those marketplaces.

We look forward to the opportunity to share our perspective and the benefits that can result from creating an RTO closer to home here in Nevada and hope that a competitive angle can certainly be kept in mind in the value that that can bring to ratepayers within the State. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this task force.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Mr. Papez. Next up, we have Ms. Porto.

**Ms. Porto:** Thank you. Alise Porto, Vice President of Sustainability for Switch. We are here representing the data center market in the State. As everybody may know, we are the largest data center in Nevada. Our megawatts now are just over 300 megawatts that we could potentially have, and we have a lot of growth both in the north and the south. We are excited about our energy future and to participate on the committee that will shape our climate and sustainability goals. We look forward to working with everybody on this task force.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Ms. Porto. Up next, I have Mr. Seeliger.

**Mr. Seeliger:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. John Seeliger, I am a Regional Energy Manager for Nevada Gold Mines. I am here representing the mining industry. Obviously, with mining being a large energy-intensive industry, we're very interested in making sure we have a stable, robust transmission system along with that, we are very interested in trying to make sure we have accessibility to alternate sources of energy. We do feel that having adequate transmission systems will be beneficial to us.

I look forward to working on this committee. Thank you.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Mr. Seeliger. Up next, we have Mr. Figueroa.

**Mr. Figueroa:** Good morning, everybody; my name is Ernest Figueroa. I am the Nevada State Consumer Advocate and the Executive head of the Bureau of Consumer Protection. The Bureau of Consumer Protection is charged with three areas of enforcement. Our first area of enforcement is the Deceptive Trade Practice enforcement, the second area is the Anti-Trust enforcement, and the third is Ratepayer Advocacy, mainly before the Public Utilities Commission and in some aspects of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I appreciate the opportunity of being a member of this committee. I am looking forward to monitoring the outcome of this committee and to the extent that there are any ratepayer benefits. I hope to put input to help maximize those ratepayer inputs for the benefit of residential ratepayers, and to the extent that there are any potential rate impacts, we hope to be mindful of those and to minimize those to any extent possible. Thank you very much.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Mr. Figueroa. And thank you for representing the consumer in this conversation. Up next, we have Ms. Carolyn Barbash.

**Ms. Barbash:** Thank you, Chairman. I am Carolyn Barbash with NV Energy, representing the utility class on this, the large utility class. I have 33 years of industry experience, including all the de-regulation and re-regulation efforts in Nevada, the beginning of the federal government's establishment of the electric wholesale market in the nation, and various efforts around the western region to form markets. I won't go through all of the efforts that haven't been successful, but I was more recently involved in setting up the energy imbalance market side for NV Energy for the California ISO. I think I have a lot of other helpful experiences and hope to bring value to this task force. As we've all said, we need transmission in order to make markets work, and one of my responsibilities right now is getting the Greenlink project permitted and in service in different phases, 2026 and 2028. It's the largest investment in Nevada's transmission system, I think, that's been made in history. I have real-time remote grid operations experience, field operations in both electric and natural gas delivery, some economic development experience using Nevada's low cost of energy and renewable energy development, economic development opportunities for new businesses, and some community relations background. I hope to add value and answer a lot of questions. My title is Vice President of Regional Transmission and Market policy. I am very tied in, and this is near and dear to my heart, the efforts of this working group. I think we can come a long way regionally and more cost-effectively through a regional market. Thank you.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Ms. Barbash.

**Chair Brooks:** We are going to move on to our first presentation. It's a presentation on Transmission 101 and will be presented by Cameron Dyer and Ken Wilson from Western Resource Advocates. This presentation and every other presentation and all of our other meeting materials are online at the Governor's Office of Energy website as listed on the meeting agenda. Today's presentations, for some of us, will be brand new information. For some of us, it will be information that we're incredibly familiar with. We are starting to create an educational baseline on transmission markets and where we are as a state to date. I think this is helpful, especially in an acronym dense industry such as energy and the subset of energy that is transmission. The presentation materials also include a glossary that has definitions of what those acronyms are, and I urge anyone to use that as a resource as we walk through this. I want to remind presenters to define acronyms as you go along.

## **6. Presentation: Transmission 101 – Cameron Dyer and Ken Wilson, WRA**

**Mr. Cameron Dyer:** Thank you Chair. Good morning, Chair and members of the Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force. Thank you for having me today to present on transmission. I also have Ken Wilson on Zoom with me. He has been doing electrical engineering much longer than I have so if you there are any real technical questions, he can field any of those for us.

Mr. Dyer delivered his presentation. Presentation materials can be found here:

[https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/6\\_WRA.pdf](https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/6_WRA.pdf)

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Mr. Dyer and Mr. Wilson. Do we have any questions from the members of the task force? Do we have any questions in Carson City or from anyone on the phone? *There were no questions from task force members.*

As you can see, this is just the tip of the iceberg of all the studies and academic work and research that has been done on the benefits of an RTO or ISO in the west and how that would affect Nevada and our surrounding states. In Senate Bill 448, there's also the ability for this task force to commission a study if necessary. I don't think this is necessarily something that we need to do but just keep in mind that that is something we have the ability to do. It seems that a study would be an aggregation of information more than a study because so much work has been done in our neighboring states, like recent information from Utah. We'll have this information posted to the Governor's Office of Energy website, so it's a resource that's available for the general public and members of the task force.

Going back to the slides that dealt with the thermal issues and the limitations of the conductors and all the components of transmission or any electrical system. You have the ATT, and the ATC and heat causing resistance and the heat that is caused by the resistance are the limiting factors to so many of these things, and you showed the undergrounding, and I'm glad you addressed that because a lot of folks bring that up.

There's the room temperature superconductivity work that's being done at UNLV right now, and I want to showcase that because it's changing the game with what we can do with materials. I think it's interesting when I'm looking at a presentation like this where heat is the limitation, and it's what's causing the sag, it's what's having to size our conductors and eliminate the distance of voltages that we can transmit electricity. It's exciting to watch what's happening with superconductors and superconductivity here at the lab at UNLV. I would urge anyone who's interested in the materials science behind this to see what they're doing at UNLV.

## **7. Break**

## **8. Presentation: Markets 101 – Maury Galbraith, WIEB**

**Mr. Galbraith:** Thank you, Senator Brooks. Good morning task force members. My name is Maury Galbraith. I am the Executive Director at the Western Interstate Energy Board, and it's good to be with you this morning. The Western Interstate Energy Board is an interstate compact agency that was created in 1970. To create the Board, the US Congress passed legislation authorizing the federal government to cooperate with the western states. Each of the eleven western states passed identical legislation in each of their state capitals, and the Board was created. The mission of the Board is to promote energy policy that is developed through cooperative efforts of the WIEB member states and provinces in collaboration with the federal government. The governors and premiers of each of the states and the two provinces may appoint a member to the Western Interstate Energy Board. In effect, WIEB is an instrumentality of the states. We work for the western states, we take our direction and guidance from the states. The current Chair of the Western Interstate Energy Board is David Bobzien, who is the Director of the Governor's Office of Energy in Nevada. The Vice-Chair is Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst from the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department. That is the leadership of WIEB. WIEB works to promote regional cooperation on all things energy in the west.

Mr. Galbraith delivered his presentation: Presentation materials can be found here: [https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/8\\_maury\\_galbraith.pdf](https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/8_maury_galbraith.pdf)

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Mr. Galbraith. The Western Flexibility Assessment is up on the Governor's Office of Energy's website, and we will add the second study, as well as the study you referenced from Tony Clark, that 2017 work, which is still relevant, to the website. Do we have any questions?

**Mr. Witkoski:** You referenced the One Clear Success on slide five, the Tony Clark study. The second paragraph says, "all states can access this without surrendering their control over resource decisions." Is the idea behind this that the state could ensure they have resources to meet their needs. Still, they could participate in a market if there's economic power available, they could do it, but if they have resources available during peak need, they could meet their peak?

**Mr. Galbraith:** State legislatures could continue to enact legislation that required the establishment of a renewable portfolio standard. They could create percentage requirements for renewable energy. State legislatures could mandate things like battery storage; they could take those kinds of actions and not be in conflict with the regional market. The states could also continue along their current lines and using integrated resource planning and leaving the resource decisions to their local utilities and the Public Utility Commission to oversee. The decisions that were made at that level would still be effective, and the utility could still invest in the generation that's needed to meet those mandates or meet those higher peak goals. One thing you see in the eastern markets is that states have given up that authority, and you'll see some states going to court trying to get some of that authority back so they can enact things like demand response programs or try and retain nuclear-generating facilities that are struggling. What Tony Clark is saying is it's this idea of comparing the economics of the market with retaining the monopoly utilities that allows the state to still have a role to play in which generating resources to plan for.

**Ms. Tierney-Lloyd:** On slide seven, which shows the current route area to date. For those states that are highlighted in the dark grey color, how do those states indicate participation in the route? Is there a formal process to designate that participation?

**Mr. Galbraith:** The Western Resource Adequacy Program is currently being developed. What the map shows is states in which Utilities have been participating in the design or providing funding that's assisting with the design and are providing an early indication that they would be interested in joining that program. Example: Nevada Energy has been involved in the discussions in the design of that resource adequacy program, and they have indicated that they have an interest in joining; that's what the map was meant to illustrate. Utilities in each one of those states that are shaded in dark have indicated an interest in participating in the program.

**Ms. Tierney-Lloyd:** On slide nine where you talk about the compromise of utility oversight vs. a regional determination for resource adequacy. Does that include a determination of reserve margin, and does it also include a definition of resource adequacy? Would it be both of those components?

**Mr. Galbraith:** The Regional Resource Adequacy Program. One thing that the states would relinquish their authority to do, at the minimum level of resource adequacy; in other words, the regional entity, the western power pool, would do a study, they would set the planning reserve margin for that large footprint then all the utilities that are participating in the program would have to meet that level of capacity procurement. They could go bigger than that, they could go super reliable, but the regional entity power pool would be setting the minimum level of capacity the Utilities must have to remain part of that program. Importantly, what is not determined at the regional level or by that regional entity is the type of resources that are used to meet that minimum requirement. A state could still determine to use solar, wind, and batteries to meet that minimum level of capacity, or alternatively, they could determine they want to use natural gas or natural gas generators to meet that minimum level of capacity. This is what's meant by the states would still have a say in which resources are built, maybe not necessarily the quantity, although what the regional entity would do is to set a minimum, but states could always go beyond that if they wanted to be super reliable or super compliant.

**Ms. Wagner:** I thought I would give you the opportunity to plug your two meetings a year. One starting next week in San Diego. Maybe explain a little bit what those meetings are, they are great opportunities to learn more on thinking of ways to build up our resources and information for our task force.

**Mr. Galbraith:** As I mentioned earlier, we have two committees, CREPC and WIRAB. CREPC works with energy office officials and utility regulators on improving the economic efficiency of the western grid, and WIRAB works on the reliability of the western grid. Those two committees host two meetings a year, one in the spring and one in the fall, where we bring together state energy office officials and state utility regulators from each state in the West. We meet for two and a half days and talk about emerging issues in the West. Transmission and market expansion are two big issues, and resource adequacy is a third big issue that we've been talking about for multiple years. Our spring 2022 meeting is next week. We are going to spend a better part of the day talking about transmission and at least a half a day talking about RTO expansion in the West. We have utility regulators and energy office directors from all eleven western states and British Columbia coming to the meeting. The meetings are free, there's no charge to attend, and the agenda is available on our website.

**Chair Brooks:** Any other questions from the committee? *No further questions.*

**Chair Brooks:** This is a great resource to start our conversation. This coupled with Transmission 101, this is a very concise foundation on where we're at and what's on the table. Thank you for joining us today, and we can close this agenda item. Our next agenda item is a break. Let's take a 30-minute break. Our next agenda item which is the Current State of Transmission in Nevada and the West. We'll have NV Energy, LS Power, GridLiance/NextEra Energy, and TransCanyon all making presentations about where we actually are right now with those plans and projects and existing assets here in the state of Nevada.

## 9. Presentation: Current State of Transmission in Nevada and the West – *(For Discussion)*

**Chair Brooks:** Called the meeting back to order. Next on our agenda is a presentation on the current state of transmission in Nevada and the west. I identified four different groups that I wanted to talk to us about this because they are groups that are active in this state, actively operating transmission systems in our state as well as developing new transmissions in our state or developing new transmission systems in our state that will play a role in what a regional transmission system would look like in Nevada. It's by no means all of the parties that are operating in the state, but it's the ones that I thought were most pertinent for this conversation we're having today. It will be NV Energy, LS Power, GridLiance/NextEra Energy Transmission, and TransCanyon.

### 9a. NV Energy – Carolyn Barbash

**Ms. Barbash:** Thank you, Senator Brooks. NV Energy is a large transmission provider in the state of Nevada. NV Energy has a long history here in the state of Nevada. We have the privilege of serving a million and a half customers across nearly 46,000 square miles. Our transmission territory is closer to eighty or ninety thousand square miles.

Ms. Barbash delivered her presentation. Presentation materials can be found here:

[https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/9a\\_carolyn\\_barbash.pdf](https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/9a_carolyn_barbash.pdf)

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Ms. Barbash, for the presentation. I noticed that we were joined in the audience by a guest. Joining us is Governor Sisolak, who you referenced in signing Senate Bill 448 that created the purpose for us being here today. Governor, thank you for stopping in on this task force meeting, and thank you for your support of the bill that got us here.

**Steve Sisolak:** Thank you for letting me interrupt your meeting and breaking in a little here. I just stopped down from my office to say thank you when I saw that you were meeting here. This is extremely important to us, the transmission. The fact that you're here today and working on this, that the bill that Senator Brooks brought forth, which I'm really proud got into the last legislative session, it made a big difference, and the interest that you're taking and the rules you're promulgating and bring forth. The next legislative session is going to be very helpful to all of us. We really appreciate it. I did want to say thank you for all that you do on a regular basis. I know everyone has busy schedules, but you took the time to be here today and to participate in this, which is important for all of us. We appreciate your contributions and the goals that you have to get to. Thank you for having me.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you sir. Thank you for your support of the bill and the task force and thank you for stopping in to say hello.

**Chair Brooks:** Do we have any questions from the members of the task force for Ms. Barbash on NV Energy's presentation?

**Mr. Witkoski:** On the western markets exploratory group, is there a timetable or a date when there may be some conclusions?

**Ms. Barbash:** Yes, we are on the same time frame as the CAISO decisions on their Day-Ahead Market as well as the SPP Market. Not implementation, but commitment. This is so the members and the utilities in the state can, in my hope, determine for themselves what's best for their customers, what footprint, what market design. Hopefully we'll have a cost benefit study started in 2023.

**Mr. Hansen:** Going back to slide number nine with Greenlink. From NV Energy's point of view, once Greenlink is in place to help broaden access to other markets, are there any other timelines or transmission upgrades to get outside Nevada or bring resources in through Nevada that would be ideal for NV Energy in today's world and market?

**Ms. Barbash:** We are constantly looking at (*inaudible*) for transmission infrastructure. As the Senator said at the beginning of this, it does take a long time to build, and by the time you start, it's too late. It really limits your options for supply. If you can't get transmission built-in time, you're really limited to getting a new generation plant in service. We are out looking, and I think you're going to hear from the next couple of presenters some projects that will interconnect to the Greenlink project.

**Chair Brooks:** Thank you, Ms. Barbash, for presenting to us today. This is a good resource for us to add to our previous presentations as a basis for our knowledge as to where Nevada can go and where we should go. Thank you for serving on the task force as well.

**Chair Brooks:** The next agenda item is 9b, Mr. Mark Milburn from LS Power to give us a presentation on what they have going on in Nevada and the west.

### **9b. LS Power – Mark Milburn**

**Mr. Milburn:** Thank you, Senator Brooks and task force members. Mark Milburn, Senior Vice President of Project Development at LS Power. There is a number of projects that are either operating or being developed by other entities besides NV Energy here in the State. So we want to take the opportunity to explain why that is and how that works and what's brewing for the future as it relates to regional markets. LS Power is an independent transmission and generation company that has been around since 1990. We have been developing projects all over the country in various different types of markets. Our idea and business purpose is to provide clean, efficient, and reliable energy solutions in areas where it's needed. Because of the way the US market has developed over the decades and the way that transmission systems have been built out over the years, and the way the generation projects are built. The reason we started in business was because there were some holes and inefficiencies, so what we're about is to help improve those inefficiencies and find solutions that can make a difference in local and regional markets.

Mr. Milburn delivered his presentation. Presentation materials can be found here:

[https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/9b\\_LS\\_power.pdf](https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/9b_LS_power.pdf)

**Chair Brooks:** Thank Mr. Milburn, that was very thorough. Do we have any questions?

**Ms. Tierney-Lloyd:** Thank you very much for the presentation, very interesting and very creative ways of developing transmission projects and funding them. Going back to slide eleven, where you were talking about if these generators would reserve capacity on the line, it could reduce some of the EIM benefits for Nevadans. In terms of how the impact, if it's part of the regional transmission organization in an organized market in the west, it is possible for those generators to contribute to the transmission and the sharing of reserves and energy across the west in a full market, is that correct?

**Mr. Milburn:** Yes, that's correct. That's my understanding of how it would work. Without that, they would be individually determining whether or not they wanted to participate in the EIM.

**Ms. Mujica:** My question is more towards workforce development. Will you be focusing on local labor when you begin your construction?

**Mr. Milburn:** Yes, we do that frequently, and all our projects look first for local labor and try to optimize that the best that we can. One thing I will say about these types of projects is that it's a very specific skill set. There are folks that do this type of construction, specifically high-voltage transmission lines, and they work around the country. We do have a commitment with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, based out of Northern California, which is in their territory, and they will be participating in providing key workers for the project. There are other jobs on the project that we'll be looking to fill with local workers.

**Mr. Hansen:** If CAISO decides to fund the project, does that impact Nevada's ability to have that 1200 megawatts of transmission? If they're controlling it, I'm curious what that does to Nevada?

**Mr. Milburn:** The short answer is no; it does not affect the ability. Under the TUA agreement NV Energy has firm rights to that capacity to use for its purposes and for Nevada. It's up to us to sort out with the CAL ISO how they would have a portion of the line and NV Energy would control a portion of the line. That's what we presented to CAL ISO is that it would be a split capacity share.

**Mr. Witkoski:** I'd like to understand a little better on this North SWIP line. You mentioned construction may begin in 2023. Do you need a decision by CAL ISO or someone else to commit to the capacity before you can start construction?

**Mr. Milburn:** We'll need some sort of commitment. If the CAL ISO makes the decision in 2022 that will solidify our ability to start in 2023. If the ISO does not, then we'll have to make other decisions in the other areas I mentioned to assure that we start 2023.

**Chair Brooks:** Was this permitted on 100% federal land?

**Mr. Milburn:** It's not 100% but it's substantial in Nevada in particular. There is a lot of private agricultural lands in Idaho that it crosses.

**Chair Brooks:** What's the capital expenditure on the SWIP North piece?

**Mr. Milburn:** The SWIP North piece is on the order of around \$600 million.

**Ms. Barbash:** In order to start construction in 2023, does LS have equipment and materials ready to go? The structures and the conductor?

**Mr. Milburn:** Yes, all of that is currently undergoing the procurement process right now. Not secured, but under procurement.

**Ms. Barbash:** I know we're all dealing with supply chain issues. Does it look like it's do-able to get the materials and equipment here in time to start construction in 2023?

**Mr. Milburn:** Yes, we think it is, but we are watching it very closely because it's a huge issue right now throughout the world. We have a number of projects that we're building in California and New York right now and it's becoming an ongoing and increasing issue. It's certainly a risk that we're trying to manage.

**Chair Brooks:** Do we have any other questions from the committee? *No other questions were asked.* We can move on to our next presentation from the GridLiance/NextEra Energy Transmission team. With us today to present this is Ms. Fanny Kidwell.

### **9c. GridLiance/NextEra Energy Transmission – Fanny Kidwell**

**Ms. Kidwell:** Thank you very much, and good afternoon, everyone. I am Fanny Kidwell, Director of Development at NextEra Energy Transmission. I lead the development team for the transmission team in the west, including Nevada. I appreciate the opportunity today to present and provide an overview of NextEra Energy Transmission and GridLiance West.

Ms. Kidwell delivered her presentation. Presentation materials can be found here: [https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/9c\\_fanny\\_kidwell.pdf](https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/9c_fanny_kidwell.pdf).

**Chair Brooks:** Do we have any questions from the committee?

**Chair Brooks:** Going back to slide six and talking about the 7 GW in generator interconnection queue. Would the system, as it currently stands with the already CAISO-approved improvements and upgrades, what is your capacity to accommodate how many GW?

**Ms. Kidwell:** Right now, with the current upgrades, about 300, and with the core upgrades that just got approved that will come online within the next three years, we'll be at 2.3 GW. Then the additional upgrades we are currently assessing with CAISO could increase up to another 6 GW. Obviously, the connection queue is not 100% meeting our needs, so we believe that we'll be enabling not only the generators that will make this queue but also the next queue that will open in April of next year.

**Chair Brooks:** I see going back to the map to where you have a connection here, you terminate at Mead on the 230, and then you've got a connection at Northwest that connects your Desert View at 230. Is that operational, or is that part of the approved improvement?

**Ms. Kidwell:** Yes, it's currently operational. It's a 230 kV single circuit.

**Chair Brooks:** Is there a CAISO interconnect at Northwest?

**Ms. Kidwell:** There is not.

**Chair Brooks:** I am also looking at where you have the 130A that goes up into Beatty, Amargosa, and Jackass Flats. What kind of renewable potential do you see up there east and north of the Beatty sub?

**Ms. Kidwell:** We are seeing an increasing solar development interest in the area. What is very interesting about Beatty is the geothermal potential. If we think about the current queue of 7 GW, that's over 400 MW which is a high number for geothermal currently in the queue at Beatty. Expanding up north, as I mentioned, will enable a tremendous amount of generation to interconnect into the GridLiance West system.

**Chair Brooks:** Next, we have Mr. Jason Smith with a presentation on the TransCanyon system.

#### **9d. TransCanyon – Jason Smith**

**Mr. Smith:** Good afternoon, everyone, Senator Brooks, members of the Transmission Coordination Task Force. I'm Jason Smith, President of TransCanyon. I appreciate the opportunity to be here this afternoon to update you on our Cross-Tie Transmission Line. I'll give you a brief background on who TransCanyon is, the Cross-Tie Transmission Line, the project itself, and the benefits and timing of the transmission line.

Mr. Smith delivered his presentation. Presentation materials can be found here: [https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/9d\\_transcanyon.pdf](https://energy.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/energynvgov/content/Programs/TaskForces/2017/9d_transcanyon.pdf).

**Ms. Mujica:** On slide five, could you repeat what you said about EIM and EDAM. You said EDAM does bring revenue recovery but EIM?

**Mr. Smith:** EIM, as it's currently constructed, does not bring any revenue to the transmission lines it uses. EDAM is still being developed, but one of the elements of the EDAM structure is being evaluated is how would EDAM market participants need to pay for transmission lines that are used to get resources into that market. That would be a helpful revenue stream in helping developers like us get transmission projects off the ground.

**Mr. Witkoski:** I can see PacifiCorp's interest in Nevada energy's interest, but I'm curious about APS and Pinnacle West's interests. Are they looking for transmission to get to Phoenix?

**Mr. Smith:** We formed TransCanyon in 2014 to pursue electric transmission broadly across the Western United States, so it happens that this particular project, Cross-Tie, connects NV Energy's and PacifiCorp's two strong systems. Pinnacle and APS, on that side of the house, are not going to take a direct capacity stake in the Cross-Tie line. There are other projects that we are working on that

could benefit the APS side of the house more directly. I don't expect APS to be part of the near-term plan here.

**Ms. Tierney-Lloyd:** I was looking back at the planned lines; did you state what the in-service dates would be for those lines? The Cross-Tie Line?

**Mr. Smith:** Cross-Tie, the in-service date is December 2026

**Ms. Tierney-Lloyd:** You also mentioned the CAISO's 20-year projected needs of transmission, and the LS Power gentleman talked about having a cost recovering mechanism through CAISO. Is that something you're exploring as well?

**Mr. Smith:** Currently, no. We are focused on finding direct customers, either resource developers or load-serving entities interested in transmission services, and entering into transmission service agreements with those counterparties. That could be a structure we evaluate in the future, but it's not something we are currently looking at.

**Chair Brooks:** What is the overall capacity of Cross-Tie MWs and what is, if anything, is already subscribed and what would be free if it's unsubscribed?

**Mr. Smith:** The overall capacity we're working on is 1500 MWs. We are in the early stages of the permitting process and in the early stages of talking to customers. We currently don't have any of the transmission capacities subscribed. But we are out actively talking to many different customers who are interested in the transmission capacity along this corridor both broadly around the region but also important resources that are in and close to the line as well who would benefit from Cross-Tie being there.

**Chair Brooks:** Are there any questions? (*Audio issues in Carson City*) Carson City members, if you could email the Office of Energy your questions, we'll get them answered directly from Mr. Smith and get back to you as soon as we possibly can.

## **10. Break (*No break*)**

## **11. Next Steps.**

- a. State-Led Market Study – Resource Sharing (*For Discussion*)**
- b. Western Flexibility Assessment – Resource Sharing (*For Discussion*)**

**Chair Brooks:** I have a couple of examples here of resources, including the latest CAISO ten-year transmission plan that's most recent and relevant to this conversation. All of this information will be hosted on a resource page on the Governor's Office of Energy website. There will be a couple of pages. One will be a meeting-specific page and another for resources. If you have suggestions, and not just the members or the presenters, if you have suggestions for resources that should be on there, you can send those to the Office of Energy and ask if they would post them. There are no bad suggestions. I think having as many resources in one clearing house as possible will make our work better.

**c. Working Groups – Discussion, Possible Establishment, and Assignments (*For Possible Action*)**

**Chair Brooks:** I will be working with the Office of Energy to see if members are interested in those working groups. Then we will post any work that those working groups would do and any meetings that the working groups would have. Hopefully, the members have identified some areas that we identified earlier in section 33 of the Bill on what we need to talk about.

**d. Preview October Meeting (*For Discussion*)**

**12. Public comments and discussion.** No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. *No public comment was received.*

**13. Adjournment. (*For Possible Action*)** The meeting adjourned at 1:10.