

Comprehensive and Sequential Planning Steps For Energy Transmission Corridors on Public Lands

- (1) Before looking to new bulk power generation sources to meet future load requirements, first analyze opportunities for energy efficiency, distributed generation, conservation, demand response and other technologies to address and lessen future load concerns.
- (2) Focus on truly needed corridors by identifying key areas of transmission congestion, constraint or absence. In areas of documented congestion or constraint, first analyze opportunities to solve the constraint by redispatch, offering conditional firm service or other market, operational, tariff, or regulatory changes.
- (3) Then, in order to avoid the impacts of new corridors, analyze opportunities to upgrade and expand existing transmission infrastructure through the application of state of the art technology, including new conductor materials, sensing and control systems, and improved transformer and system control technologies.
- (4) Where the transmission need for new bulk power generation is established, then identify opportunities for renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar and geothermal – and associated transmission needs – to meet future load concerns and reduce air pollutants and carbon emissions. To reduce the need for long-distance and multi-state transmission lines, first identify for development those renewable energy resources that are in close proximity to major demand/load centers.
- (5) Having demonstrated the need for these new energy transmission corridors (regardless of generation source):
 - First,
 - (a) avoid sensitive public lands recognized for scenic, natural, recreational, cultural or historic resources
 - Then,
 - (b) minimize impacts to affected public lands, wildlife and other resources through the adoption of Best Management Practices for right-of-way siting, construction, ongoing maintenance and reclamation
- (6) Employ the concept of corridors. If planned and implemented properly, corridors create opportunities to harness multiple industry proposals for energy transmission into discrete, well-defined and studied areas to minimize adverse impacts.
- (7) Finally, to the extent practicable, require the use of designated renewable energy transmission corridors for future right-of-way applications in order to avoid duplicative rights-of-way, unnecessary impacts and affecting key areas identified in (5)(a).