

HIGH PLAINS EXPRESS

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High Plains Express Transmission Study Joined by the Wyoming and New Mexico Transmission Authorities

Participants in the High Plains Express (HPX) project study – which is looking to expand and reinforce the regional electric transmission grid – announced that the transmission development authorities for the states of Wyoming and New Mexico have joined its feasibility study efforts. Once Colorado's transmission authority is in place, its participation will also be sought.

The two new participants are the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority (WIA) and the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources, acting on behalf of the state's Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA). Once Colorado's Clean Energy Development Authority (CEDA) becomes operational, it will also be asked to join the group.

“The alignment of the interests of state government and industry stakeholders along the HPX path is seen as integral in considering the feasibility of the project and its ultimate development,” said Jerry Vaninetti, Vice President of TransElect and member of the High Plains Express Steering Committee.

The HPX project study is a proactive plan for the expansion and reinforcement of the transmission grid in the states of Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. The goal is to develop a high-voltage, backbone transmission system that will enhance reliability and increase access to renewable and other diverse generation resources within regional energy resource zones.

The first phase of the HPX is a joint participation feasibility study that will explore technical, economic, and environmental transmission alternatives. Eight parties, including Xcel Energy, have initiated a feasibility study, which is now scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2007.

The initial participants in the High Plains Express Transmission Project include Colorado Springs Utilities, Platte River Power Authority, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Salt River Project, Trans-Elect Development Company, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Western Area Power Administration, and Xcel Energy.

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