NEVADA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY

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Carson City, NV 89701

Joe Lombardo
Governor

James Humm
Director

Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force

Meeting Minutes

November 06, 2026 | Meeting Started at 10:00am

Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Taylor called the meeting of the Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force to order at 10:00 AM and asked Karen Garcia of the Governor's Office of Energy (GOE) to call roll and establish a quorum.

Roll Call and Quorum

Ms. Garcia called the roll of Task Force members. A quorum was established.

Member	Attendance
Chair Jennifer Taylor	Present
Alise Porto	Present
Andrea Martinez	Not present for roll call
David Rubin	Present
Erik Hansen	Not present for roll call
Gail Bates	Present
Hayley Williamson	Not present for roll call
Director (GOE) — represented by Jake Herzik, Deputy Director, GOE	Present (by designee)
Jeremy Newman	Present
Henry Shields	Present
Leslie Mujica	Present
Luis Cruz Negron	Not present for roll call
Luke Papez	Present
Michael Park	Not present for roll call
Michael D. Roberson	Present
Assembly Member Richard DeLong	Not present for roll call
Richard Perkins	Present
Robby Hamlin	Present
Dan Lazzareschi	Present
Rachelle Doubinkine	Present
Assembly Member Tracy Brown-May	Present

Staff: Karen Garcia (Governor's Office of Energy) facilitated roll call, public comment and presentation logistics. Jake Herzik, Deputy Director of GOE, attended in place of the Director, who was unavailable.

I. Public Comment

Ms. Garcia opened the floor for public comment via telephone and Teams. No members of the public requested to speak at this time; Ms. Garcia noted a second opportunity for public comment would occur at the end of the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes — August 25, 2026, Meeting

In the absence of Director Humm, who typically makes this motion, Leslie Mujica moved to approve the minutes. Jake Herzik seconded the motion. Chair Taylor asked whether there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, the motion was called for a vote and carried with all members voting in favor. No objections or abstentions were noted. (All ayes; no objections or abstentions noted).

III. Presentations

A. Permitting Alignment and Coordination Task Force (PACT)

Lindsey Mayer, Director of Permitting and Energy Partnerships, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development. Janea Scott, Senior Fellow, Gridworks

Ms. Mayer and Ms. Scott provided an overview of the Permitting Alignment and Coordination Task Force (PACT), an initiative established to improve coordination among Western states on the permitting of regional transmission projects.

- **Purpose of Regional Transmission:** Ms. Mayer explained the importance of expanding transmission infrastructure to improve grid resilience, support economic development, and provide more competitive electricity pricing through increased access to diverse energy resources.
- **Western Transmission Challenges:** The Western Interconnection faces increasing pressures from electrification, data center development, extreme weather events, and aging infrastructure. The region's multiple balancing authorities and separate planning and permitting processes create challenges for coordinating large, multi-state transmission projects.
- **West TEC Study:** The West TEC study brought together approximately 70 different organizations and stakeholders to develop a regional approach to transmission planning. The 10-year report was released in February 2026, with the 20-year report expected in December 2026. The study is intended to provide Western states with a regional transmission roadmap.
- **PACT Establishment:** Twelve states, consisting of the 11 Western states and North Dakota, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing to the West TEC study and establishing PACT. The initiative is intended to help address permitting challenges within existing state and federal procedures.
- **PACT Structure:** Ms. Scott explained that PACT will operate through two coordination tracks:
- **Track One – Statewide Coordination:** State energy offices will collaborate on shared resources, best practices, state priorities, and coordination with federal agencies, including the Department of Energy (DOE), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, and Army Corps of Engineers.
- **Track Two – Project-Specific Coordination:** States involved in a particular multi-state transmission project will coordinate permitting schedules, identify challenges, share information, and work together to resolve issues that could delay a project.
- **Federal Coordination:** PACT will work with federal programs, including DOE's SITAP program and the Federal Permitting Council's FAST-41 program, to improve coordination between federal, state, and local permitting authorities.
- **Permitting Improvements:** The initiative is focused specifically on permitting rather than transmission planning or financing. The goal is to improve communication, identify permitting challenges earlier, and work toward reducing permitting timelines by approximately half.
- **Voluntary Participation:** PACT is intended to serve as a voluntary resource for developers, utilities, and state energy offices. It will not create additional permitting requirements or replace existing regulatory procedures.
- **Future Opportunities:** Developers with multi-state transmission projects that could benefit from additional coordination are encouraged to contact Ms. Scott or Ms. Mayer.

Discussion / Q&A:

- Chair Taylor asked how PACT would coordinate with FERC transmission planning orders. Ms. Scott explained that planning matters fall primarily under West TEC, while PACT focuses on coordinating the actual permitting process once a transmission project is ready to move forward.
- Ms. Mayer emphasized that PACT is intentionally focused on one objective: improving permitting timelines rather than creating additional planning or financing requirements.

- Chair Taylor asked whether the initiative would provide opportunities for public tracking and public input. Ms. Mayer explained that PACT is not intended to establish a new public process or additional bureaucracy but will support existing permitting procedures and provide assistance when coordination issues arise.
- Ms. Scott provided examples of potential permitting challenges, including differences in state approaches to endangered species, environmental reviews, and federal agency coordination. She emphasized the importance of reviewing information on the same timeline to avoid delays caused by outdated information or separate review schedules.
- Mr. Papez asked whether PACT would involve public stakeholders and non-governmental organizations. Ms. Mayer explained that participation is voluntary and that PACT would serve as a resource when additional coordination is requested.
- Mr. Papez also asked whether the initiative would address federal, state, and local permitting. Ms. Mayer confirmed that PACT intends to coordinate across all levels, with current efforts primarily focused on federal and state agencies.
- Deputy Director Herzik confirmed that the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy will serve as Nevada's PACT lead. He expressed support for the initiative and noted that Nevada and Utah may have an opportunity to identify an initial transmission project for PACT coordination.
- Deputy Director Herzik identified potential permitting challenges involving sensitive species, habitat, water permits, and coordination with local governments. He explained that developers sometimes focus on federal permitting requirements and do not address state-specific requirements early enough, which can result in extended permitting timelines.
- Deputy Director Herzik indicated that he would propose including a recommendation in the Task Force's upcoming report encouraging the incoming Governor to continue Nevada's participation and engagement with PACT.
- Chair Taylor offered to assist with local government coordination, noting her experience serving on a local planning commission and the importance of involving local governments in infrastructure discussions.

B Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program – Conservation Credit System

Kathleen Steele, Program Manager, Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Ms. Steele provided an overview of Nevada's Sagebrush Ecosystem Program and its Conservation Credit System, which was established to help protect greater sage-grouse habitat while allowing development projects to move forward through an established mitigation process.

- **Program Background:** Ms. Steele explained that the program was established following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2010 determination that the greater sage-grouse was warranted for listing but precluded from listing under the Endangered Species Act. Nevada subsequently adopted its greater sage-grouse state plan and Conservation Credit System in 2014. The system became a permanent regulatory requirement in 2019.
- **Conservation Credit System:** The system requires qualifying impacts to greater sage-grouse habitat to be addressed through mitigation. It follows the standard avoid, minimize, and mitigate process, with the program focusing on the mitigation portion after efforts have been made to avoid and minimize impacts.
- **Program Organization:** The program is housed under State Lands and overseen by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, which consists of nine Governor-appointed members. The Council establishes policies based on scientific information presented by the program and its science committee.
- **Project Coordination:** The program works with BLM, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and other state and federal partners. The program also certifies verifiers to assist with project evaluations and monitoring.
- **Habitat Impact Calculations:** The Conservation Credit System evaluates both direct and indirect impacts to greater sage-grouse habitat. Ms. Steele noted that projects located within six kilometers of greater sage-grouse habitat should contact the program to determine whether mitigation may be required. The program can generally provide an initial estimate within a few days.
- **Project Requirements:** Projects associated with federal or state permitting actions, including Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and other applicable permitting processes, must be reviewed through the program. Projects located exclusively on private land are generally not subject to the same requirement.
- **Debits and Credits:** Debits represent the loss of habitat function resulting from a development project. Credits are generated through the preservation or restoration of habitat and are used to offset those impacts.
- **Credit Development:** Credits may be created by preserving intact habitat, generally on private land, for periods ranging from 30 to 120 years, or by restoring degraded habitat on public or private land.

- **Free Market Transactions:** The program assigns the debit and credit amounts but does not control the negotiations or pricing between project proponents and credit developers. The parties negotiate directly, and the program finalizes the transaction once the required documentation is submitted.
- **Types of Development:** The program evaluates impacts from various activities, including transmission lines, towers, mining, oil and gas development, urban roads, railways, renewable energy projects, exploration activities, data centers, and gravel pits.
- **Duration Requirements:** Most projects have a minimum mitigation term of 30 years. For transmission projects, the program encourages consideration of permanent mitigation when appropriate. Developers may also renew their obligations after the initial term.
- **Credit Requirements Before Construction:** At least one-third of a project's debit obligation must be satisfied before the project receives a notice to proceed. The remaining obligation must be satisfied within 10 years. The program provides confirmation letters to the permitting agency.
- **Public Lands Restoration:** The program is working to expand restoration opportunities on public lands, including pinyon-juniper removal, meadow enhancement, post-fire restoration, and other habitat improvement projects.
- **Program Statistics:** Ms. Steele reported approximately 35 credit projects preserving slightly less than 150,000 acres of greater sage-grouse habitat. Three public-land restoration projects were in the planning and permitting stages. The program also had 23 active debit projects and more than 150 debit projects overall. Since the program began, more than 100 mitigation transactions have protected over 80,000 acres of habitat for a minimum of 30 years.
- **Credit Availability:** Ms. Steele clarified that credits are not currently running out, despite concerns that have circulated among project developers. Additional credits continue to become available.
- **Credit Pricing:** Based on transactions reported to the program, private-land credits generally range from approximately $1,600 to $3,200 per credit, with an average of approximately $2,200. Potential public-land restoration credits were estimated at approximately $1,200 to $1,400 per credit, although these figures were theoretical and had not yet been established through complete transactions.

Discussion / Q&A:

- Chair Taylor asked how the program coordinates with federal agencies. Ms. Steele explained that the program has Memorandums of Understanding with BLM and the Forest Service and participates as a cooperating agency in applicable NEPA processes. The program coordinates with federal agencies to ensure mitigation requirements are incorporated into project documentation without delaying the permitting process.
- Mr. Papez asked about the credit transaction process and whether the program participates in negotiations. Ms. Steele explained that the program assigns credit and debit amounts and provides contact information to the parties. Developers and credit holders negotiate directly, and the program verifies the completed transaction through matching documentation.
- In response to a question about pricing, Ms. Steele provided the estimated credit price ranges and explained that costs depend on the number of credits purchased and the individual landowner's circumstances.
- Mr. Papez asked whether the program had an example of the number of credits required for a transmission project. Ms. Steele identified Greenlink North as a potential public-land restoration project, with an estimated obligation of approximately 10,000 debits. She also noted that a northern Nevada transmission project estimate exceeded 100,000 debits due to the project's length and the quality of the habitat involved.
- Mr. Papez asked whether existing energy corridors could be considered when calculating habitat impacts for multiple transmission projects using the same corridor. Ms. Steele stated that the program considers projects in the same general area but does not currently have a policy to adjust credit or debit calculations based on previous projects within an established corridor.
- Deputy Director Herzik asked about the land authorization required for public-land restoration projects and how the program ensures long-term durability. Ms. Steele explained that the program generally requests a 30-year authorization or lease for public-land restoration projects. Additional reserve credits are maintained to address potential losses resulting from wildfire or other disturbances.
- Deputy Director Herzik also asked about permanent mitigation credits. Ms. Steele explained that permanent credits are currently limited because most private-land credit developers operate working ranches. A project may alternatively purchase four times the amount of 30-year credits to satisfy a 120-year obligation.
- Chair Taylor asked whether the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program could be included as a resource under PACT for transmission projects affecting greater sage-grouse habitat. Ms. Steele and Deputy Director Herzik agreed that early coordination with the program would be beneficial.
- Ms. Steele encouraged developers to contact the program as early as possible, even during the initial planning stages, to understand potential impacts, mitigation requirements, and permitting timelines.

C. Regional Organization for Western Energy (RO) – Board Update

Rebecca Wagner, Board Member, Regional Organization for Western Energy

Ms. Wagner provided an update on the establishment of the Regional Organization for Western Energy (RO), the new independent governance organization being developed through the Western Energy Markets Pathways Initiative.

- **Pathways Initiative Background:** Ms. Wagner explained that in July 2023, regulators from Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, and New Mexico called for the development of a separate governance structure to oversee Western energy markets currently operated by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) and governed by the Western Energy Markets Governing Body.
- **Board Formation:** The Pathways Initiative established a nominating committee and conducted a comprehensive selection process for five board members. The new board first convened on October 19, 2026.
- **Board Responsibilities:** The five-member board is currently functioning as both the decision-making body and staff while the organization is being established. The board is working from the Pathways Initiative briefing book, which provides recommendations on corporate governance, regulatory structure, budget and finance, stakeholder participation, and the organization's future development.
- **Organizational Development:** Over the next year, the board intends to establish and staff the organization, secure startup funding, develop governance and tariff structures, negotiate agreements with CAISO, establish a principal place of business, and begin broader stakeholder outreach.
- **Leadership Recruitment:** A leadership search working group has been established to recruit a Chief Executive Officer. Applications were due November 13, 2026, with the goal of selecting a CEO by the end of the year and having the individual begin in January 2027. The board is also seeking General Counsel and outside legal support.
- **Budget and Finance:** The organization currently has limited funding and is working with CAISO to secure a startup loan. Long-term revenue is expected to come through a tariff mechanism once the RO assumes governance responsibilities.
- **Regulatory and Legal Framework:** The board is developing a new governance tariff, an integrated tariff with CAISO, and a coordination agreement between the organizations. These documents will establish how the RO governs market policies while CAISO continues operating the markets. The documents will require FERC approval, with a filing targeted for mid-2027.
- **Stakeholder Process:** The board is developing an interim stakeholder process to receive input on issues brought before the board before the formal stakeholder structure is implemented.
- **Principal Place of Business:** A working group has been established to evaluate potential locations for the organization's principal place of business. A request for comments was issued, with comments due November 17, 2026. The organization is currently operating virtually and expects to remain virtual while startup resources are limited.
- **Additional Working Groups:** Other working groups are addressing corporate development, communications, website updates, branding, insurance, compensation, and outreach.
- **Consumer Advocate Organization:** The Pathways Initiative envisions a consumer advocate organization within the RO to support continued participation by state-designated consumer advocates and ensure consumer perspectives are represented in market governance.
- **Tribal Engagement:** The board is committed to meaningful tribal engagement and intends to incorporate tribal perspectives into its governance structure. An existing tribal engagement working group will continue its work, with Ms. Wagner serving as the board liaison.
- **Office of Public Participation:** The organization plans to establish an internal Office of Public Participation to help address barriers to participation, provide education on policy matters, and assist stakeholders with engagement.
- **Public Policy Committee:** A board committee will conduct outreach to state, local, federal, and tribal governments, as well as power marketing administrations such as WAPA and the Bonneville Power Administration.
- **Transparency:** The board has established a regular schedule of public meetings, generally held Tuesdays at 1:00 PM Pacific. Meeting information is available through the organization's website.
- **Governance Transition:** The goal is to transfer governance responsibilities from the Western Energy Markets Governing Body to the RO Board in early 2028.

Discussion / Q&A:

- Chair Taylor asked whether the Pathways Initiative had reviewed other regional energy markets and considered lessons learned. Ms. Wagner confirmed that the initiative had completed an in-depth review of existing market structures and governance models.

- Chair Taylor asked about the role of distributed energy resources (DERs), including demand response, under the new organization. Ms. Wagner explained that DER participation is anticipated as an important part of future market development. She noted that DER representation was included in the stakeholder structure and nominating process.
- Chair Taylor expressed support for Nevada being considered as the organization's principal place of business, noting its central location within the Western region.
- Ms. Wagner agreed that Nevada, including Reno or Las Vegas, could be considered but noted that the selection process would evaluate several factors, including neutrality, cost, and the organization's future staffing needs.
- Chair Taylor thanked Ms. Wagner for her service and for providing the Task Force with an update on the organization's development. She encouraged continued communication and engagement with the Task Force.

D. NV Energy – SB 448 Regional Transmission Organization Requirements and EDAM Update

David Rubin, NV Energy

Mr. Rubin provided an update on NV Energy's obligations under Senate Bill 448 (SB 448), the potential for joining a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), and the company's ongoing implementation of the Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM).

- **SB 448 Requirements:** Mr. Rubin reviewed the requirement for NV Energy to join a Regional Transmission Organization on or before January 1, 2030. The statute allows NV Energy to request a waiver from the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN). An application for a waiver is due by January 1, 2027.
- **Waiver Requirements:** To obtain a waiver, NV Energy must demonstrate that it has been unable to identify a viable RTO despite reasonable efforts, that joining an RTO is not in the best interests of the company and its customers, and that granting the application would be in the public interest.
- **PUCN Order:** Mr. Rubin referenced the Commission's July 2026 order in Docket No. 23-10019, which recognized that the available Western RTO options were California ISO and SPP RTO West. The Commission agreed that there was currently a lack of a viable RTO option for NV Energy and established criteria for the waiver or delay filing.
- **Viable RTO Criteria:** NV Energy considers a viable RTO option to require independent governance, sufficient transmission interconnection with Nevada, adequate interchange capability, and a footprint large and diverse enough to provide coordinated dispatch and reliability benefits.
- **California ISO Considerations:** Mr. Rubin explained that NV Energy has concerns regarding the independence of the current CAISO board, which is selected by the California Governor. He also noted that California Assembly Bill 825 allows California participation in the RO but restricts NV Energy from joining CAISO as a participating transmission owner under the current structure.
- **SPP RTO West Considerations:** NV Energy does not currently have a direct interconnection with SPP RTO West. Mr. Rubin explained that transmission connectivity is necessary to realize the production-cost and reliability benefits associated with RTO participation. He also clarified that SPP RTO West is separate from the Markets+ footprint and does not provide a single optimization across the two markets.
- **Regional Organization Development:** Mr. Rubin noted that the RO is still in its early formation stages and does not yet provide an established RTO option for NV Energy to join.
- **Proposed Filing:** NV Energy intends to seek a delay rather than a permanent waiver, allowing the RO time to establish its organization and potentially expand its responsibilities. Mr. Rubin explained that the company wants to give the RO an opportunity to develop its day-ahead and real-time market governance responsibilities and consider additional services.
- **Future Reporting:** NV Energy proposes to provide updates on regional market developments and RTO opportunities through its annual supply plan updates. If a viable RTO option becomes available, the company would commit to submitting a more detailed filing evaluating whether participation would be in the best interests of its customers.
- **EDAM Implementation:** Mr. Rubin reported that NV Energy has received PUCN authorization to begin implementation of EDAM and has retained Utilicast to assist with the process. Utilicast has experience supporting other utilities with EDAM implementation.
- **Implementation Agreement:** NV Energy has signed its implementation agreement with CAISO and made its initial payment, allowing the company to begin coordinating with CAISO staff and accessing technical assistance.
- **Tariff Changes:** NV Energy has engaged outside legal counsel to assist with changes to its Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT). The company hopes to make portions of the proposed changes available for stakeholder review in late 2026 or early 2027. Additional changes will continue into 2027 as the CAISO stakeholder process addresses congestion allocation.
- **Discussion / Q&A:**

- Chair Taylor thanked Mr. Rubin for the update and acknowledged NV Energy's continued work toward identifying a regional market option that would meet SB 448 requirements and benefit Nevada customers.
- Chair Taylor requested an additional update on EDAM implementation. Mr. Rubin confirmed that NV Energy has begun its implementation work, retained Utilicast, signed its implementation agreement with CAISO, and started coordinating on the required tariff changes.
- Chair Taylor requested that NV Energy provide the final waiver or delay application to GOE staff once it has been officially filed with the PUCN so it can be posted with the other Task Force materials. Mr. Rubin agreed to provide the filing.

IV. Next Meeting Dates and Report Planning

- **November 13, 2026:** In-person meeting to review the draft report, discuss recommendations, and work through any proposed comments or revisions.
- **November 20, 2026:** Brief online meeting to vote on the final report before it is transmitted to the Governor and the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

Chair Taylor encouraged members to submit any additional recommendations or suggested changes to Ms. Garcia so they could be considered for inclusion in the draft report.
Members were also reminded to communicate any scheduling or attendance concerns in advance to help ensure a quorum for the upcoming meetings.

V. Items for Future Agendas

Chair Taylor noted that the November 13 meeting would focus on reviewing the draft report and the November 20 meeting would focus on voting on the final report.

The Chair asked whether members had any additional items they believed should be included on a future agenda. No additional items were raised.

VI. Public Comment

Ms. Garcia reopened public comment.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:44pm