NEVADA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY

600 E William St #200
Carson City, NV 89701

Joe Lombardo
Governor

James Humm
Director

REGIONAL TRANSMISSION COORDINATION TASK FORCE (RTCTF) MEETING MINUTES JULY 22ND 2026 1PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device
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Agenda:

Call to order, roll call, and establishment of a quorum. Chair Jennifer Taylor opened the meeting at 1:02pm. She noted the day's focus was economic development, consistent with the Task Force's obligations under Senate Bill 448, Section 33, to advise the Legislature and Governor on the connection between transmission markets and economic development, particularly interconnection at the transmission and distribution levels.

Task Force Members Present:		Task Force Members Absent:
Jennifer Taylor, Chair	Leslie Mujica	Hayley Williamson
Alise Porto	Luis Crus	Jeremy Newman
David Rubin	Luke Papez	Michael Park
Erik Hansen	Michael Roberson	Shela Hallstrom
Gail Bates	Richard DeLong	Tracy Brown-May
James Humm, Director	Richard Perkins	
Henry Shields	Robby Hamlin	
Tom Burns	Rachelle Doubinkine	
Andrea Martinez		

I. Public Comment

Management Analyst for Governor's Office of Energy Amber Gale opened the agenda item. There was no one online or by phone to provide public comments.

II. Consideration of Approval of May 7th, 2026, Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force Meeting Minutes. Director James Humm opened this agenda item and moved to approve the meeting minutes from the May 7th, 2026, RTCTF meeting. Leslie Mujica Seconded the motion. All in favor. No opposition. Item passes.

III. Presentations

A. Utility Resource Planning

- **Shawn Elicegui, Senior Vice President – Nevada Energy**

Mr. Elicegui presented on (1) in-flight transmission projects, (2) the large load addition process, and (3) NV Energy's 2026 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) in May 2026.

Large Load Addition Process

- Mr. Elicegui described the process: Business Development ('front door') → Major Projects/Transmission Planning (load-driven transmission study) → High Voltage Distribution Agreement (HVDA) → Integrated Resource Planning (generation and transmission studies feeding into the IRP filed with the PUCN).
- Gating/commitment tools used to distinguish speculative from committed load: study-phase fees ($150,000–$500,000), contributions in aid of construction, "advance subject to refund" payments, HVDAs, and the newer Large Load Electric Service Agreement (LLESA).
- HVDA-related transmission facility costs for large customers can range from approximately $20 million to $150 million or more.
- LLESA and HVDA terms include minimum bills, security provisions, and termination provisions intended to protect existing customers from rate impacts and to fund construction financing.

2026 Integrated Resource Plan Overview

- NV Energy has received 22 GW of load interest statewide, driven by unprecedented growth.
- 6.2 GW have signed HVDAs (ranging from in-service to under construction); of that, 3.4 GW have signed LLESAs requesting full service by 2032 roughly a 30% increase over the state's approximate 9 GW combined peak (Southern Nevada ~7.5 GW; Northern Nevada ~2–2.2 GW).
- To meet forecast load, NV Energy has requested approval for 4.3 GW of renewable power purchase agreements, 5.1 GW of storage, 180 MW of geothermal, and 1.2 GW of thermal (aeroderivative peaking) generation, the latter selected for speed-to-market given combustion turbine unavailability in 2030–2031.
- Resource additions are being staggered in modular levels to allow reassessment against the load forecast and to limit large capital commitments (e.g., H-class combined-cycle units).
- The projected post-2049 generation decline reflects a planning assumption that thermal resources retire to meet the state's 2050 zero-carbon-emissions target.
- Assemblyman Delong asked whether the Esmeralda 7 projects were assumed in the IRP; Mr. Elicegui did not have the answer on hand and agreed to follow up by email.

Data Centers, Rate Protection, and Key Challenges

- In response to a question from Mr. Perkins, Mr. Elicegui explained that the proposed structure is designed to prevent large-load additions from increasing rates for other customers: large-load customers pay the otherwise-applicable rate, provide

contributions in aid of construction (targeting per-unit generation investment at or below NV Energy's existing cost basis), and pay minimum bills and a long-term energy rate reflecting the incremental cost of renewable PPAs needed to serve them. This proposal is before the PUCN for stakeholder review and may be adjusted based on feedback.

- Behind-the-meter generation is expected to play a role in bridging gaps for large-load customers while permanent interconnection is completed.
- Asked by Chair Taylor to identify the biggest barriers to faster load service, Mr. Elicegui cited permitting timelines at the state, federal, and county levels as the key constraint, given resource limitations relative to unprecedented demand across all reviewing entities.

B. Governor's Office of Economic Development – Energy Resources

- **Melanie Sheldon, Senior Director of Business Development**
- GOED was created in 2011 in response to the Great Recession to build economic diversification and resilience; the office exceeded its original 50,000-job target, ultimately supporting 240,000 jobs prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- GOED's Business Development team focuses on attraction, retention, and growth of businesses aligned with target sectors identified in the agency's five-year strategic plan, leveraging Nevada's logistics advantages (e.g., five major ports; one-day service to 9% of the U.S. population from Southern Nevada).
- Tools include statutory tax abatement packages (approved by the GOED Board, chaired by the Governor), workforce and education partnerships, and coordination with NV Energy, Southwest Gas, water authorities, and local/regional development partners during site selection.
- Landscape shift: whereas 2023-era site selection priorities centered on financial competitiveness, workforce availability, and quality of life, current priority for many companies not only data centers, but lithium processing and advanced manufacturing is how quickly power and other resources can be secured.
- Nevada currently has 74 data center facilities, concentrated in Las Vegas. GOED's active pipeline includes roughly 10 prospects at various stages, plus two abatement applications and one Storey County data-center project on the agenda for GOED's August 5 board meeting.
- Ms. Sheldon noted that more prospective projects fail to materialize than succeed (by her estimate, roughly five do not proceed for everyone that does), often due to aggressive timelines, unsuitable site selection, or power/water infeasibility.
- GOED is emphasizing early engagement encouraging companies to consult utilities and local government early in site selection to avoid mismatches between project timelines and available capacity.
- In response to Chair Taylor's question, Ms. Sheldon confirmed some companies have paused Nevada projects or considered other states due to aggressive interconnection timelines, though she noted companies are increasingly coming to GOED better informed about viable sites.

C. CAISO – Large Load Interconnection and Other Considerations

- **Danielle Mills, Director, Infrastructure Policy Development – CAISO**
- CAISO's transmission planning process is tightly coordinated with California state agencies: the California Energy Commission (CEC) develops annual demand forecasts (10- and 15-year horizons, including data center growth), which feed the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) resource portfolio planning, which in turn informs CAISO's transmission plan.
- As of January 2026, CEC forecasts data center load growth of 1.8 GW by 2030 and 49 GW by 2040. CAISO's most recently approved (March 2026) transmission plan includes 38 new projects totaling $6.8 billion a significant increase over prior years.
- CAISO has produced a 20-year outlook since 2022; this practice is now required nationally at least every five years under FERC Order 1920.
- CAISO's zonal planning approach designates areas with planned transmission availability to guide generator interconnection; this reform, adopted in 2024, reduced Cluster 15 interconnection requests from 541 to 155 while cutting overall requested capacity by 80%, improving the likelihood that studied projects reach completion.
- Since 2020, CAISO has onboarded ~36 GW of new capacity (accelerating to 6.5+ GW/year in the last two years). As of April 2026, CAISO holds 185 GW of interconnection requests, of which 96 GW have executed generator interconnection agreements and ~60 GW have transmission underway to enable deliverability.
- CAISO has two active stakeholder initiatives addressing large loads: (1) the Large Load Stakeholder Initiative, covering roles/responsibilities, cost allocation, and technical requirements serving as CAISO's vehicle for responding to FERC's June 18, 2026 Order to Show Cause (initial resource-sufficiency report submitted the week of the meeting; straw proposal due August 12; draft final proposal mid-September; FERC filing due November 16); and (2) the Demand and Distributed Energy Resource Market Integration Initiative, addressing market participation rules and data needs.
- The FERC order directs CAISO to address: efficient transmission service application/study processes; prevention of cost-shifting with improved cost transparency; colocation and behind-the-meter generation accommodation; new flexible/non-firm transmission service for large loads pending network upgrades; and a study process for generation electrically proximate to (but not co-located with) large loads.
- In response to member questions, Ms. Mills noted that most approved transmission upgrades are within California, though some enable interregional transfers; SunZia currently serves some California load and has also signed a contract with a non-California load-serving entity; and CAISO's role in economic development is indirect, flowing from its reliability mandate rather than a direct economic-development function. Additional service arrangements for Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM) members are being considered through the market-integration initiative.
- Regarding the Pathways Initiative, Ms. Mills deferred detailed comment (outside her area) but offered to share CAISO's planning tools and process learnings for use by other balancing authorities.

D. Potential presentation from independent transmission developer: Enabling Nevada Growth through the Power of Collaboration

- **Jaime Hoffman with GridLiance West**

- GridLiance West is a NextEra Energy Transmission subsidiary that owns the 230 kV-and-above transmission assets within the Valley Electric Association (VEA) service territory; VEA operates the assets as the load-serving entity.
- GridLiance West is undertaking a full system rebuild — converting a single-circuit 230 kV system (in place since 2016) to a double 500/230 kV system — representing capital investment exceeding $1 billion, with associated construction jobs and property tax benefits. The rebuild strengthens connections to NV Energy (Northwest), WAPA, and CAISO, and extends into the Amargosa Valley.
- Phased in-service dates: Trout–Sloan segment (double 500 kV) – 2027; core upgrade (Trout to Northwest) – 2028; Beatty extension – 2028.
- NextEra maintains a dedicated tribal coordination team engaged across transmission, solar, and storage projects in the region.
- Growing large-load interest (data centers and mining) in the Amargosa Valley is being served in coordination with VEA; GridLiance West is also coordinating with NV Energy on interconnections for data centers located outside the VEA territory.
- Future development priorities include geothermal generation (Esmeralda County and Dixie Valley, ~100 miles from the existing system) and the "High Five" project — a new approximately 500 kV line extending east into Utah (BLM permit application filed), expected to enable approximately 4 GW of new resources and targeted for in-service in the early 2030s.
- In Q&A: the rebuild enables approximately 11 GW of new generation interconnection capacity system-wide, with roughly 1 GW available to flow into the Nevada (NV Energy) bulk grid beyond direct CAISO load service. Current generation on the system is limited (some solar near Pahrump, Hoover preference power); future generation is expected primarily through CAISO's Cluster 16 interconnection process (opening fall 2026), concentrated in the Pahrump, Amargosa Valley, and Boulder–Sloan areas (solar and storage, including storage assets targeted for 2029).

IV. Next Meeting Date: August 25, 2026, at 1pm

V. Items for Future Agendas

Next Meeting Discussion from Chair Taylor:

- With the Task Force's biannual report deadline approaching, Chair Taylor reviewed recommendations from the 2024 report that have not yet been addressed and invited members to submit additional topics to Amber Gale. Candidate topics identified include:
- Data sharing practices across NV Energy, the PUCN, and GOED to support development planning.
- Policies supporting greater use of grid-enhancing technologies (GETs).
- Development of a statewide transmission plan (building on the 2012 transmission initiative), including a routing study and partnerships with other ISOs/RTOs or reliability planning organizations (potentially through the Western Governors' Association transmission initiative).
- Input from other states' transmission siting authorities, given permitting was identified as a key bottleneck.

- Economic benefits of Western market participation, including customer-owned resource aggregation and demand response aggregators bidding into a centralized market, and utilities' role in planning/integrating distributed energy resources.
- County tax revenue considerations related to large-load and transmission development.
- BLM and Sagebrush Ecosystem Council permitting and siting issues, including sage grouse-related restrictions in northern Nevada (raised by Assemblyman Delong). GOE Director James Humm confirmed outreach to the Sagebrush Council has already begun and committed to bringing additional agenda items back in August.
- A possible update from the Pathways Initiative in August.

VI. Public Comment

Amber Gale opened the floor to public comment by phone or by Teams. No members of the public offered comment.

VII. Adjournment

Assembly Member DeLong moved to adjourn. James Humm seconded. The motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm.