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

September 22, 2026 | Meeting Started at 1:00pm

Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Taylor called the meeting of the Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force to order at 1:00 PM and asked Amber Gale of the Governor's Office of Energy (GOE) to call roll and establish a quorum.

Roll Call and Quorum

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

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

Staff: Amber Gale (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. Gale opened the floor for public comment via telephone and Teams. No members of the public requested to speak at this time; Ms. Gale 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, Luis Cruz Negron moved to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026, Task Force meeting. Luke Papez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice/roll-call vote (All ayes; no objections or abstentions noted).

III. Presentations

A. NREA: Consumer-Owned Public-Power

Lisa Levine, Executive Director, NREA

Ms. Levine, joined by fellow presenter and RTCTF board member Robby Hamlin (Valley Electric Association CEO), presented an overview of NREA and the challenges facing Nevada's consumer-owned public power utilities.

- NREA represents 10 general members (1 municipal utility, 3 power districts, 6 electric cooperatives) plus 3 associate members (Arizona G&T Cooperatives, Colorado River Commission of Nevada, Deseret Power Cooperative). Members include Alamo PD3, Boulder City, Harney Electric, Lincoln County PD1, Mt. Wheeler Power, Overton PD5, Plumas-Sierra REC, Raft River REC, Valley Electric Association, and Wells Rural Electric.
- Wildfire risk and insurance: Federated Rural Insurance wildfire claims among public power members rose from 58 in 2020 to a record 107 in 2024 (104 in 2025) a 69% increase in average annual claims (2024–25 vs. 2020–21) and 468 total claims since 2020. Coverage ranges $10–20 million with no coverage for non-economic damages. Ms. Levine stated that Nevada's public power utilities are “just one wildfire away from shuttering” given the public-power, no-shareholder ownership model that places uncovered losses directly on ratepayers.
- Load growth: NREA members have received data center interconnection requests totaling roughly 5,750 MW about 13 times members combined current peak load led by Valley Electric (2,600 MW requested vs. 130 MW peak) and Lincoln County PD1 (1,400 MW requested vs. 22 MW peak, a 64x multiple).
- Market paths: NREA members are split across WAPA Desert Southwest (leaning EDAM: Boulder City, Lincoln County PD1, Overton PD5, Alamo PD3), PNGC/BPA (Markets+: Wells Rural, Harney Electric, Raft River), CAISO (Valley Electric, Plumas-Sierra REC), and Deseret G&T, which joined SPP's full RTO in April 2026 (Mt. Wheeler Power).
- Regional implications: potential new market seams in southern Nevada (WALC/WAPA DSW vs. EDAM vs. Markets+), northern Nevada (PNGC/BPA Markets+ power delivered over an NV Energy system moving to EDAM), and eastern Nevada (a possible SPP–EDAM seam in White Pine County near NV Energy's Robinson Summit/Gonder facilities).
- Affordability: hydropower and contracted resources (e.g., Hoover, delivered at $25.5/MWh in 2023) are dramatically cheaper than wholesale market purchases (Mead on-peak reached $205.5/MWh in an August 2024 forecast) illustrating why continued access to federal hydropower and transmission matters to rural members.
- Federal/permitting challenges: 6–7-year (up to 10–15 year) backlogs for federal land transmission permits; equipment and transformer shortages; workforce shortages competing with data center development; no property tax revenue from federal lands complicates local investment; FERC prioritization of data center interconnection requests could further bottleneck other applications.
- IIJA Grid Resilience Grant: NREA was awarded $8,308,500 total ($7,086,000 competitive U.S. DOE IIJA grant plus $1,222,500 Nevada matching funds from the Governor's Office of Federal Assistance), providing $923,165 to each of 9 participating member utilities over 5 years for grid modernization and wildfire mitigation.

Discussion / Q&A:

- In response to Chair Taylor's questions, Ms. Levine confirmed most NREA members are NV Energy transmission customers (Valley Electric being the notable CAISO exception) and that NREA's core section-33 concerns are governance/voice in RTO decisions, wildfire liability/insurance risk, and continued transmission access as capacity becomes competitive.
- On economic development, Ms. Levine noted NREA members have a duty to serve regardless of customer type (“load agnostic”), that permitting for large loads is a local/county jurisdiction matter, and that continued fixed

generation/transmission capacity raises questions about prioritization among competing development (data centers, agriculture, mining).

B. Grid Enhancing Technology Policy Options and Technical Considerations in Nevada

Julia Selker, Executive Director, WATT Coalition

Ms. Selker provided a follow-up to her 2024 presentation on grid enhancing/advanced transmission technologies: dynamic line ratings (DLR), advanced power flow control, topology optimization, and high-performance conductors.

- Federal context: FERC Order 881 (2021) requires RTOs to prepare for DLR and mandates temperature-adjusted (ambient-adjusted) line ratings; Order 2023 requires consideration of advanced power flow control and high-performance conductors in generator interconnection; Order 1920 requires consideration of all four GET technologies in transmission planning; recent "show cause" orders push RTOs to demonstrate they can model GETs, not merely "consider" them.
- Federal funding: remaining GRIP program / IIJA funds (~$1.9 billion) have been redirected by the current administration toward conductor and advanced transmission technology upgrades; announcements were expected imminently as of the meeting.
- State policy: 23 states have passed some form of GETs legislation as of July 2026, motivated by affordability, load growth/interconnection speed, and a desire to accelerate FERC-directed studies. Ms. Selker highlighted Arizona (siting-process relief for reconductoring), New Mexico (IRP integration and cost-recovery affirmation for grid modernization), and Ohio/Minnesota (specific study thresholds e.g., studying GETs solutions for constraints binding more than 168 hours) as particularly effective models. She recommended legislation frame GETs as transmission-expansion enhancements rather than alternatives to new lines.
- DLR examples: presented PPL Electric's multi-year DLR deployment showing wide, line-specific variability in gained capacity, and how ambient-adjusted vs. dynamic ratings are displayed to operators with fallback alerts to static ratings.
- Cautioned that reported gains in line-rating assumptions (e.g., increased assumed wind speed) should be independently justified for safety, and that inaccurate/undisclosed ratings can result in unnecessary generator curtailment.

Discussion / Q&A:

- Chair Taylor asked about state-specific policy detail (Arizona, New Mexico, Utah), FERC Order 1920 implementation progress (still early; RTO compliance filings largely commit to "studying" GETs without full modeling detail yet), and whether GETs cost recovery would be treated as "just and reasonable."
- Ms. Selker indicated cost-recovery affirmation is intended to encourage utility investment but would still receive normal regulatory scrutiny (citing a California DLR cost-recovery case removed from a rate case for insufficient justification, without prejudice). She agreed to share the WRI's 50-state GETs law summary with the Task Force for the 2026 report.

C. NV Energy – Transmission Planning

Charles Pottey, Director of Transmission System Planning, NV Energy

Scott Kaufmann, VP Transmission, NV Energy

NV Energy presented on its transmission planning and operations functions, regional transmission development projects, and grid-enhancing technology deployments.

- Transmission Planning Department: 16 employees (2 directors, 1 manager, 11 engineers, 2 interns) responsible for NERC reliability studies/compliance, the IRP transmission plan, generator interconnection and transmission service studies, regional planning participation, and FERC compliance.
- Transmission Operations: organized into Grid Operations (control centers/EIM operators), Substation Operations, Telecommunications Operations, and Operations Technology, all staffed 24/7.
- Planning process follows Attachment K of NV Energy's Open Access Transmission Tariff across local, regional (NorthernGrid, producing a regional plan every 2 years; every 5 years under Order 1920, with a 20-year planning horizon), and interregional (coordination with CAISO, WestConnect, and eventually SPP) components; NV Energy also participates in the Western Power Pool's WestTEC study (10-year plan complete; 20-year plan expected by year-end 2026).

- Public power coordination: most Nevada public power entities are NITS (Network Integration Transmission Service) customers of NV Energy (Valley Electric being the CAISO-member exception); NV Energy will grant 681 MW of additional open-access transmission capacity to customers upon Greenlink West's completion.
- Regional development projects discussed: Greenlink West (in service ~2027) and Greenlink North (in service late 2028); SWIP-North (LS Power, ~2,070–2,335 MW capacity, with CAISO and Idaho Power [500 MW northbound] participation); Cross-Tie (TransCanyon, 525 kV, selected in draft WestTEC 20-year plan); ON Line #2 (BLM grant offer extended to 2028); Walker River–NOB–Bonanza (joint NV Energy/BPA 525 kV line, proposed in-service ~2035); Amargosa–Bighorn–Eldorado/Mead (renewable delivery from an area BLM has identified with 22 GW of renewable interest); Walker River–Tesla (potential CAISO/PG&E interconnection, selected in draft WestTEC 20-year plan); Gridliance West's proposed Silverado project; and TransWest Express (FERC-authorized negotiated-rate service, progressing toward CAISO/Los Angeles delivery at Eldorado).
- Load forecasts: NV Energy systemwide retail load is forecast to roughly double, from about 9,000 MW to 18,000 MW over 20 years; Sierra (northern Nevada) load is forecast to nearly triple, from ~2,500–2,600 MW to ~7,000 MW. NITS/network customer load is forecast to grow from 589 MW to ~3,200 MW (roughly 3–4x).
- GETs deployment: NV Energy has used advanced conductors (ACSS in southern Nevada, ACCC in northern Nevada) for roughly two decades, with about 250 of NV Energy's ~5,900 transmission miles (85 lines) reconductored to date. NV Energy operates nine phase-shifting transformers (two more planned with SWIP-North) but has not yet deployed advanced power flow controllers, though it is monitoring a 3-year EPRI GETs research program.
- Ambient-adjusted ratings (AAR), required under FERC Order 881, are targeted to go live fall 2027, aligning with regional partners including CAISO. A DLR pilot is underway on two heavily loaded 120 kV northern Nevada lines; early results show higher-than-static ratings in most hours but lower ratings in some conditions, requiring NV Energy to work through long-term planning implications (e.g., whether capacity commitments remain "firm") before broader rollout, which is expected to take one to two more years. DLR/AAR only provide benefits on thermally limited lines — long, voltage/angular-stability-limited lines and transformer-limited segments do not benefit.

Discussion / Q&A:

- In response to Chair Taylor's questions about meeting load growth given long lead times (Greenlink ~10 years from approval to service; TransWest Express and B2H over 15 years),
- Mr. Pottey acknowledged that current transmission planning likely is not keeping pace with projected load growth and that siting of new generation relative to load will affect transmission needs. Mr. Pottey described NV Energy's regional committee participation (WestTEC technical and steering subcommittees; required NorthernGrid membership; future coordination with CAISO/WestConnect/SPP).
- Mr. Kaufmann described the DLR pilot timeline and noted vendors are exploring sensor-free, model-based DLR approaches. Mr. Cruz Negron asked about transformer cooling options to increase capacity; Mr. Pottey noted most transformers have multiple (air/forced oil) cooling ratings and defined emergency overload curves, but adding cooling equipment after the fact is uncommon to absent original design provision.

D. Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) in Wholesale Markets

Brian Turner, Senior Regulatory Director, Advanced Energy United

Mr. Turner, a member of the Pathways Launch Committee that stood up the new Western energy markets governance organization (referred to during the meeting as "the RO"), presented on virtual power plants (VPPs)/distributed energy resource (DER) aggregation and their treatment in wholesale markets.

- VPPs aggregate heterogeneous customer-sited devices smart thermostats, water/space heating, rooftop solar, battery storage, EVs (including managed charging and vehicle-to-grid) using a distributed energy resource management system (DERMS) to act collectively as a grid resource for capacity, peak shaving, load shifting, and ancillary services.
- Participation models range from a fully utility-operated DERMS program to utility programs incorporating third-party aggregators, to independent third-party aggregators selling directly into wholesale markets; NV Energy currently operates primarily as an intermediary using VPP resources for its own grid needs, with optional sale into wholesale markets.
- Current EIM/EDAM pathway: NV Energy's DER/VPP resources count toward CAISO's resource sufficiency evaluation via a load-forecast adjustment (load-modifying resource treatment); direct market participation pathways (Proxy Demand Resource, Reliability Demand Response Resource, and Distributed Energy Resource Aggregation/DERP under FERC Order 2222) exist but were largely built around California-specific registration and metering infrastructure.

- CAISO's Demand and Distributed Energy Market Integration (DEDEMI) initiative (begun 2025) is working on reforms: Track 1 (nearing a final proposal) would allow customer-sited battery exports beyond the meter to count within aggregated demand reduction; Track 2 (no schedule yet) will address broader reforms to EIM/EDAM (non-CAISO) DER/VPP market participation pathways, including for large loads such as data centers.
- Governance: rulemaking for these market rules currently sits with the Western energy markets governing body; under the Pathways proposal, full authority will transfer to "the RO's" independent Board of Governors (to be seated within weeks), advised by a Body of State Regulators and a 9-sector stakeholder committee that includes a dedicated DER sector a structure Mr. Turner noted is more granular than peer markets such as PJM.
- FERC Order 2222 requires CAISO to make DER/VPP participation pathways available on an open-access basis within its balancing authority, but (as currently understood) does not compel non-RTO balancing authorities joining a day-ahead market like EDAM to open direct DER/VPP market participation; the PUCN therefore retains substantial discretion over whether and how NV Energy and other Nevada aggregators use these pathways. PUCN's approval of NV Energy's EDAM entry has already teed up a workshop process to explore this question.

Discussion / Q&A:

- Chair Taylor asked about the status of the new governance board;
- Mr. Turner confirmed the nominating committee's slate had been finalized, with an advisory vote by the Launch Committee expected that Friday ahead of formal seating by the formation committee.

IV. Points of Discussion

A. 2026 RTCTF Report Recommendations

B. Speaker Suggestions for October 12th, 2026, Meeting

C. Plan for November 13th and 20th meetings

- The Chair invited recommendations for the Task Force's forthcoming SB 448 report and speaker suggestions for the meeting on October 12, 2026.
- Gail Bates recommended the Task Force hear an update on discussions between SPP and CAISO, noting it has been some time since the last briefing on that topic. No specific presenter was identified; the Chair agreed to identify a speaker.
- No other recommendations or speaker suggestions were raised on the record; members were reminded they may email Ms. Gale with additional recommendations or speaker suggestions as they develop them.

The Chair outlined plans for report drafting and adoption given the end of the two-year SB 448 reporting cycle:

- November 13, 2026, in-person meeting (requested by several members) to work through the draft 2026 report, discussion questions, comments, and changes.
- November 20, 2026, brief online meeting to vote on the final report so it can be transmitted to the Governor and the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) within statutory timelines.

The Chair also noted a staffing transition: Ms. Gale will be unavailable for part of this period, and a different GOE staff member will support the November meetings; a transition briefing will occur in October, so members know who to contact about issues or questions.

V. Next Meeting Dates

The next regular Task Force meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2026. The Chair noted she will be on vacation from October 14 through the end of November and asked members to flag any attendance concerns for the October 12 meeting to Ms. Gale to help confirm quorum in advance.

VI. Items for Future Agendas

Addressed under Item IV above (SPP–CAISO seams update). No additional future-agenda items were raised.

VII. Public Comment

Ms. Gale reopened public comment.

John Williams (Bonneville Power Administration) provided comment: several months ago, Travis Kavler became BPA's CEO/Administrator and paused BPA's pursuit of joining Markets+. Approximately two weeks before this meeting, Administrator Kavler issued a letter to "the RO" outlining key prerequisites and a statement of principles under which BPA would consider shifting its day-ahead market participation from Markets+ to EDAM. Mr. Williams noted this presents an opportunity for the RO to address BPA's and its customers' concerns regarding EDAM governance and market design and wanted to ensure the Task Force was aware.

Chair Taylor thanked Mr. Williams and noted this has been a point of significant interest in the energy community.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm