
Subject: CTPG Comments - Nye County, Nevada

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Comments on the California Transmission Planning Group (CTPG) Phase 4 Study Plan
October 7, 2010

Nye County, Nevada, requests CTPG consider high-probability renewable energy projects in Nevada in the Out-of-State Scenario in its Phase 4 Study Plan.

More than 8,000 MW of new solar generation has been proposed in the Amargosa Valley (Nye County) alone. Even though many of these projects are well into the permitting process, a significant measure of viability, CTPG has not previously evaluated this capacity. Perhaps this new resource was overlooked because transmission appeared inadequate. Valley Electric Association (VEA), serving the Amargosa Valley, has just announced it has rights-of-way in place to complete construction of a long-anticipated 2-230 kV line connecting the Amargosa Valley with NV Energy's Northwest Substation north of Las Vegas and ultimately substations in the El Dorado Valley. The VEA states that eight to ten solar energy developers are interested in interconnections for use of the line. An alternative merchant transmission project which follows the 368 Corridor from Amargosa Valley to the El Dorado Portal, the 120-mile Solar Express 500 kV Line, is going through permitting at this time.

According to the NV Energy interconnection queue, more than 200 MW of new geothermal development is proposed near Path 52, Silver Peak to Control Substation, and an additional 257 MW of new solar is planned in the vicinity. Eighty MW of new Photovoltaic generation is planned at the Tonopah Airport Energy Park. Power from these plants could find a shortened path to southern California markets by way of the existing Path 52 if upgraded.

In order for CTPG to present an accurate picture of competitive, viable, out-of-state renewable resources in its 2010 California Statewide Transmission Plan, it must consider renewable power produced in Nevada and delivered to California by way of two essential transmission portals: the El Dorado Valley (south of Las Vegas) and Path 52 and/or Owens Valley (near Tonopah). Through these portals, high-probability resources can be provided for California customers. The Nevada State Office of Energy, the Nevada Bureau of Land Management, the Nevada Renewable Energy Commissioner, NV Energy, VEA, and Nye County each maintain project lists and can provide this information to CTPG.