

**California Transmission Planning Group (CTPG)
Technical Study Team Response's to
October 6, 2010 Comments by Nye County, Nevada on
CTPG's draft Phase 4 Study Plan**

Nye County Comment:

Nye County, Nevada, requests the 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 megawatts 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, [indicating] a significant measure of viability, the 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 megawatts of new geothermal development is proposed near Path 52, Silver Peak to Control Substation, and an additional 257 megawatts of new solar is planned in the vicinity. Eighty megawatts 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 the 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 the CTPG.

CTPG Technical Study Team Response:

The CTPG appreciates the information provided by Nye County, Nevada, and welcomes their continuing interest in CTPG's study work. As an initial matter, Nye County is encouraged to review the work already performed by the CTPG and documented in the Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 study reports available on the CTPG website at "www.ctpg.us". Nearly all of these scenarios contain new renewable generation located in central and southern Nevada. The central Nevada geothermal generation is connected to the California grid via transmission north of Control substation. The southern Nevada solar generation is assumed to be connected to Eldorado substation. Information developed by the CTPG potentially relevant

to Nye County's comments includes the CTPG's responses to comments made by the Geothermal Energy Association and Terra-Gen Power. Those comments and responses are also posted on the CTPG website. The CTPG also suggests that Nye County review sections 7.6 and 8.3 of the final Phase 3 Study Report for a better understanding of the CTPG's findings with respect to these renewable resources.

In addition, as part of its Phase 4 work, the CTPG is collecting information regarding renewable development plans and transmission expansion plans, from planning entities across the WECC. The CTPG has already received some information from Nevada planning entities and will augment that information with what Nye County has included in its instant comments.