

**Public Service Company of New Mexico**  
**Draft Attachment K – September 14, 2007**  
**Incorporating the transmission planning principles and concepts adopted in**  
**FERC Order No. 890**

**I. Overview of the Public Service Company of New Mexico (“PNM”) Transmission Planning Process.**

PNM is a vertically integrated public utility engaged in the generation and transmission of electric power and energy in the states of New Mexico and Arizona and in the distribution of electric power and energy in the State of New Mexico. PNM provides electric transmission and related reliability services under state and federal statutes and regulations. PNM’s transmission planning process is based on the following three core objectives:

- Maintain reliable electric service;
- Improve the efficiency of electric system operations, including the provision of open and non-discriminatory access to the transmission facilities under its control; and
- Identify and promote new investments in transmission infrastructure in a coordinated, open, transparent and participatory manner.

PNM’s transmission planning process is intended to facilitate a timely, coordinated and transparent process that fosters the development of electric infrastructure that both maintains reliability and meets load growth so that PNM can continue to provide reliable and cost-effective service to its customers.

The PNM transmission planning process includes a series of open planning meetings that PNM will conduct at least twice a year to allow anyone including, but not limited to network and point-to-point transmission customers, interconnected neighbors, regulatory and state bodies and other stakeholders, input into and comment on the PNM transmission plan through all stages of its development.

In addition to its local transmission planning process, PNM coordinates its transmission planning with other transmission providers and stakeholders in the desert southwest area, and the Western Interconnection as a whole, through its active participation in the Southwest Area Transmission Planning (“SWAT”) group, membership in WestConnect,<sup>1</sup> membership in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (“WECC”) and participation in the WECC Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (“TEPPC”) and its Technical Advisory Subcommittee (“TAS”).

---

<sup>1</sup> WestConnect was formed under a memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) among twelve transmission providing electric utilities in the Western Interconnection. The purposes of WestConnect are to investigate the feasibility of wholesale market enhancements, work cooperatively with other Western Interconnection organizations and market shareholders and address seams in the appropriate forums. WestConnect has initiated an effort to facilitate and coordinate regional transmission planning across the WestConnect footprint. Current parties to the WestConnect MOU are: Arizona Public Service Company, El Paso Electric Company, Imperial Irrigation District, Nevada Power Company/Sierra Pacific Power Company, Public Service Company of Colorado, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Salt River Project, Southwest Transmission Cooperative and Transmission Association, Tucson Electric Power Company and Western Area Power Administration.

Three subregional planning groups operate within the WestConnect footprint: SWAT, Colorado Coordinated Planning Group (“CCPG”) and the Sierra Coordinated Planning Group (“Sierra”). WestConnect’s planning effort, which includes funding and provision of planning management, analysis, report writing and communication services, supports and manages the coordination of the subregional planning groups and their respective studies. Such responsibilities are detailed in the WestConnect Project Agreement for Subregional Transmission Planning (“STP Project Agreement”). PNM is a signatory to this Agreement.

The subregional planning groups within the WestConnect footprint, assisted by the WestConnect planning manager, coordinate with other Western Interconnection transmission providers and their subregional planning groups through TEPPC. TEPPC provides for the development and maintenance of an economic transmission study database for the entire Western Interconnection and performs annual congestion studies at the Western Interconnection region level.

## **II. PNM Local Transmission Planning**

### **A. PNM Planning Process**

1. PNM’s transmission planning process consists of an assessment of the following needs:
  - a. Provide adequate transmission to access sufficient network resources in order to reliably and economically serve retail and network loads.
  - b. Support PNM’s local transmission and subtransmission systems.
  - c. Provide for interconnection for new generation resources.
  - d. Coordinate new interconnections with other transmission systems.
  - e. Accommodate requests for long-term transmission access.
2. Transmission Planning Cycle.
  - a. PNM conducts its transmission planning on a calendar year cycle for a ten year planning horizon.
  - b. PNM updates its ten year plan annually and publishes an annual Ten Year Transmission Plan on its OASIS in the first quarter of each year.
3. Transmission Customer’s Responsibility for Providing Data

- a. PNM uses the information provided by its transmission customers to, among other things, assess network load and resource projections, transmission needs, operating dates and retirements for generation resources in PNM's system and regional models used to conduct planning studies.
- b. Network Customers are required, pursuant to the PNM Open Access Transmission Tariff ("OATT") to submit their ten year projected network load and network resources to PNM on an annual basis. PNM requires that this information be submitted annually by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to:

Lead Director, Transmission Operations  
Public Service Company of New Mexico  
414 Silver Avenue. SW  
Mail Stop 0604  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

- c. To maximize the effectiveness of the PNM planning process, it is essential that all other transmission customers provide their ten year needs in the form of relevant data for inclusion in the PNM transmission planning process. PNM requires that this information be submitted annually by March 1st each year by forwarding such data electronically to the Lead Director, Transmission Operations. Such data should include, to the maximum extent practical and consistent with protection of proprietary information:
  - i. Generators – planned additions or upgrades (including status and expected in-service date), planned retirements and environmental restrictions.
  - ii. Demand response resources – existing and planned demand resources and their impacts on demand and peak demand.
  - iii. Network customers – forecast information for load and resource requirements over the planning horizon and identification of demand response reductions.
  - iv. Point-to-point transmission customers – projections of need for service over the ten year planning horizon, including transmission capacity, duration, and receipt and delivery points.
- d. Each Customer is responsible for submitting timely written notice to PNM of material changes in any of the information previously provided related to the Customer's load, resources, or other aspects of its facilities or operations which may, directly or indirectly, affect PNM's ability to provide service.

4. Types of Planning Studies
  - a. Reliability Studies. PNM will conduct reliability studies to ensure that all of NERC, WECC, and local reliability standards, considering customers planned loads and resources, are met.
  - b. Economic Studies. Economic planning studies are performed to identify significant and recurring congestion on the transmission system. Such studies may analyze any, or all, of the following: (i) the location and magnitude of the congestion, (ii) possible remedies for the elimination of the congestion, in whole or in part, (iii) the associated costs of congestion, and (iv) the cost associated with relieving congestion through system enhancements (or other means). PNM will perform, or cause to be performed, such studies consistent with the requirements of Order No. 890.
5. Economic Planning Study Requests.
  - a. Any PNM transmission customer or other interested stakeholder (“Requester”) may submit a study request for an economic planning study directly to PNM or TEPPC. All requests submitted to PNM should be sent to the Lead Director, Transmission Operations.
  - b. If a Requester submits its economic planning study request directly to PNM, PNM will review the request with input from stakeholders in a public transmission meeting. Based in part on the number and type of requests received, PNM will determine whether the study should be considered a local priority request and performed by PNM or whether the study request encompasses a subregion or region, in which case PNM will transfer the request to TEPPC for consideration as a priority request to be included in TEPPC’s list of economic studies to be performed by TEPPC.
  - c. TEPPC will review economic planning study requests received from transmission providers, subregional transmission planning groups, and Requesters during its open stakeholder meeting and, together with its stakeholders, prioritize requests for economic planning studies. Both PNM and Requester will have an opportunity to participate in the TEPPC prioritization process and provide input as to whether a study request should be included in the TEPPC study plan. For more detail regarding the TEPPC economic planning study process see the executive summary overview of the TEPPC Transmission Planning Protocol at [www.wecc.biz](http://www.wecc.biz).

- d. If PNM determines, with input from stakeholders obtained through the PNM public planning meeting that the economic planning study request is a local priority, *e.g.*, if the study request does not affect interconnected transmission systems, and the remedies are confined to a local area and can be resolved within the local area (*i.e.*, PNM's Balancing Authority Area), then PNM may conduct the study internally and coordinate assumptions and results with its customers, stakeholders and interconnected neighbors.
  - e. If either PNM or TEPPC determines, after reviewing through an open stakeholder process, that the request for an economic planning study is a lower priority, the Requester may request that PNM assist the Requester in having a third party perform the economic planning analysis at the Requester's expense. The Requester will have use of the TEPPC economic study data base and PNM will support the Requester in ensuring that the study is coordinated through local, subregional or regional planning groups.
  - f. PNM may determine that any number of Requesters' economic planning study requests should be studied together or a Requester may request that PNM study its request together with other requests. PNM will combine such studies as it deems appropriate. If study requests are combined, the study costs will be shared equitably among the requesters.
  - g. PNM will identify a Point of Contact on its OASIS to respond to customer/stakeholder questions regarding modeling, criteria, assumptions, and data underlying transmission system plans.
6. PNM transmission study plans and planning results will be communicated through presentations at the PNM Public Meetings (*see* Section II.B.2. below) and all documents and presentations will be posted on the PNM OASIS and the WestConnect website at [www.westconnect.com](http://www.westconnect.com).
  7. Economic Planning Study Cycle. PNM will make reasonable efforts to coordinate the timing of its economic planning study cycle process with the TEPPC process. PNM will require that the customer submit its study request at least one month prior to the study submission date required for the TEPPC study process.
  8. Cost Responsibility for Economic Studies
    - a. Priority local economic planning studies will be performed at PNM. PNM will recover the costs of such studies through its transmission rates.

- b. Regional studies performed by TEPPC will be paid for through WECC dues by the WECC members.
  - c. Studies not characterized as priority will be performed at the customer's expense. PNM may perform the study or work with the Customer and its third party contractor
9. Exchange of Data Unique to Economic Planning Studies
- a. PNM obtains all data used for its economic planning studies from the TEPPC data base or from other relevant sources.
  - b. Customer's request for detailed base case data must be submitted to WECC in accordance with the WECC procedures.
  - c. Customer's Request for economic planning studies and responses to such requests shall be posted on the PNM OASIS and the WestConnect website at [www.westconnect.com](http://www.westconnect.com), subject to confidentiality requirements.
10. PNM Study Criteria and Guidelines. Customers should refer to the PNM Transmission Planning Process and Guidelines posted on the PNM OASIS.

**B. PNM Open Public Meetings**

PNM will hold at least two open public transmission planning meetings a year that will allow, and promote, customers, interconnected neighbors, regulatory and state bodies and other stakeholders to participate in a coordinated, nondiscriminatory process for development of the PNM transmission plan.

1. Purpose and Scope

Public meetings will provide an open transparent forum whereby electric transmission stakeholders can comment and provide advice to PNM during all stages, including the early stages, of its transmission planning. Public transmission planning meetings will serve to:

- a. Provide a forum for open and transparent communications among New Mexico transmission providers, state regulatory authorities, customers and other interested stakeholders;
- b. Promote discussion of all aspects of the PNM transmission planning activities, including, but not limited to, methodology, study inputs and study results; and

- c. Provide a forum for PNM to understand better the specific electric transmission interests of key stakeholders.
2. PNM Public Planning Meeting Process
- a. All public transmission planning meetings will be open to all stakeholders.
  - b. Meeting Purpose: Meetings will be conducted to (i) allow PNM to maximize its understanding of its customers' forecast needs for the PNM transmission system; (ii) offer customers and other stakeholders an opportunity to be informed about, offer input and advice into, the PNM transmission system and planning process, as well as to propose alternatives for any upgrades identified by PNM; (iii) review study results; and (iv) review transmission plans.
  - c. PNM anticipates that much of its local transmission planning process will be conducted and coordinated with SWAT.
  - d. Meeting Notices, including date, time, place and meeting agenda will be posted on the PNM OASIS and WestConnect website at least 30 days prior to the meeting. PNM will establish its public planning meeting schedule as needed, but no less than twice annually.
  - e. The agendas for PNM's public planning meetings will be sufficiently detailed, posted on the PNM OASIS and circulated to its distribution list in advance of the meetings in order to allow customers and stakeholders the ability to choose their meeting attendance most efficiently.
  - f. At the PNM meetings to be held during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters each year, PNM shall (i) review its transmission planning process and current study plan with stakeholders; (ii) request stakeholder review of the current study plan; (iii) provide comment and advice on any aspect of its transmission planning process; (iv) invite the submittal of transmission study requests from stakeholders for review and discussion; and (v) provide updates on its planned projects.
  - g. It is anticipated that in the 1st Quarter meetings, PNM will solicit information on loads and resources and other needs from its transmission customers for the preparation of its ten year plan. It is anticipated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, PNM will present a draft of its ten year plan for stakeholder review and comment.

- h. All existing PNM transmission customers, network and point-to-point, will be included on PNM's distribution list and actively notified *via* email of all upcoming public meetings. Any other stakeholder wanting to be included on PNM's email distribution list should submit its information to the Lead Director, Transmission Operations.
- i. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input, comments, advice and questions into the process at any time by sending an email to the Lead Director, Transmission Operations.
- j. PNM will post all meeting-related notes, documents and draft or final reports on its OASIS and the WestConnect website.
- k. In order to permit all stakeholders access to the information posted on the PNM OASIS and WestConnect website, only public information will be shared, and public business conducted, in the PNM open public meetings

### **III. Subregional and Regional Coordination**

Subregional Planning and Coordination at the WestConnect-SWAT-CCPG-Sierra subregional level.

#### **A. Overview**

A number of subregional processes and agreements are available to PNM to assist in the coordination of its planning efforts over a region encompassing a large number of interconnected transmission owners. These include a recent WestConnect STP Project Agreement that defines the obligations of the signatory transmission owners to support and manage subregional planning processes within the WestConnect footprint. Those sub-regional planning processes include existing groups such as the SWAT and the CCPG. Sierra is a new subregional planning group being formed in the Northern Nevada/Northern California area within the WestConnect footprint.

PNM is a party to the WestConnect STP Project Agreement and is actively engaged in the SWAT planning group. The WestConnect footprint, which includes the regions covered by SWAT, CCPG and Sierra encompasses the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and parts of California, Texas and Wyoming. PNM submits its transmission plans to its relevant subregional planning group, SWAT, as required for inclusion in and coordination with SWAT's transmission plan. PNM actively participates in the SWAT planning process to ensure that PNM's data and assumptions are coordinated with the SWAT subregional plan. The WestConnect planning manager will

ensure that the SWAT's transmission plan is coordinated with the CCPG and Sierra plans to produce the WestConnect Transmission Plan...

**B. SWAT's Role in the Subregional Planning Process**

1. SWAT is tasked with bringing transmission planning information together and sharing updates on active projects. The SWAT subregional planning group provides an open forum where any stakeholder interested in the planning of the transmission system in the SWAT footprint, which includes Arizona, New Mexico, and parts of California, Nevada, and Texas, can go to obtain information regarding base cases, plans, and projects and to provide input or express their needs as they relate to the transmission system.
2. The SWAT subregional planning group is comprised of transmission providers, transmission users, transmission operators, state regulatory entities and environmental entities. Membership is voluntary and open to all interested stakeholders.
3. The goal of SWAT is to promote subregional planning and transmission development in the desert southwest and to ensure that all of the individual transmission plans are coordinated in order to maximize use of the existing transmission system and identify the transmission expansion alternatives that most effectively meet future needs. The SWAT subregional planning group includes six main geographically based subcommittees and two footprint wide subcommittees, which are overseen by the SWAT oversight committee. The subcommittee study groups address transmission planning issues within their geographic areas indicated by their respective names. *See* [www.westconnect.com](http://www.westconnect.com).
4. The subcommittee planning groups provide a forum for entities within each respective region, and any other interested parties, to determine and study the needs of the region as a whole.
5. SWAT also provides a forum for project sponsors to introduce their specific projects to interested stakeholders and potential partners and allows for joint study of these projects, coordination with other projects, and project participation including ownership from other interested parties.
6. Each WestConnect party is a signatory to the WestConnect STP Project Agreement, which sets forth the parties' responsibilities to participate in the SWAT, CCPG and/or Sierra subregional planning groups, as appropriate. The STP Project Agreement is also open for participation by other transmission providers within the WestConnect footprint. SWAT, CCPG and Sierra are also developing charter and/or governance

requirements for their respective planning groups. The responsibilities of PNM and other WestConnect parties under the STP Project Agreement and the subregional planning group charters are generally as follows:

- a. To provide funding for and procure manpower and other goods and services to support the subregional transmission planning efforts of the planning groups active within the WestConnect footprint, coordinate such planning efforts with other subregional planning groups within the Western Interconnection and with WECC TEPPC, and produce and submit for approval an annual WestConnect Ten Year Transmission Plan.
  - b. To utilize and make available to all study participants the planning standards, objectives, assumptions and base cases developed through stakeholder processes by SWAT, CCPG and Sierra for subregional transmission planning. The base cases will include all previously assumed facilities and agreed-upon additions for the baseline scenario.
  - c. To develop and submit to SWAT, CCPG and/or Sierra, as appropriate, a minimum 10-year expansion plan for each WestConnect party's respective transmission system consistent with the planning objectives and planning standards, including plans for addressing all currently identified or projected system needs.
  - d. To participate in the subregional planning processes conducted by SWAT, CCPG and Sierra, by giving input and commenting on policy issues, objectives, study scope, assumptions and methodologies, and alternatives for consideration in the planning and study process.
  - e. To evaluate a broad range of assumptions and alternatives that have been developed through stakeholder processes for incorporation in the SWAT, CCPG and Sierra study plans.
7. Transmission customers and stakeholders wishing to participate in the transmission planning processes for the high voltage and extra high voltage system in the Desert Southwest should engage the SWAT subregional planning group. PNM will assist transmission customers and stakeholders interested in becoming involved in the transmission planning process by directing them to appropriate contact persons and websites. All transmission customers and stakeholders should bring their plans for future generators, loads or transmission service to the SWAT planning meetings.
  8. The agendas for the SWAT meetings, WestConnect planning meetings, PNM public planning meetings and any other planning meetings scheduled in conjunction with the SWAT meetings will be sufficiently

detailed, posted and circulated in advance of the meetings in order to allow customers and stakeholders the ability to choose their meeting attendance most efficiently.

9. The proposed focus of the SWAT meetings, WestConnect planning meetings and PNM public meetings will be

1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meetings (January)

SWAT Meeting

- Approve the final SWAT report for the previous year's study work and the study plan for the new year; and
- Transmission providers submit their Ten Year Transmission Plans for inclusion in the new year study plan.

WestConnect Planning Annual Meeting

- WestConnect Ten Year Transmission Plan presented to the Planning Management Committee;
- Submittals for Planning Management Committee approval;
- WestConnect Annual Planning Report from prior year;
- WestConnect Study Plan for the year the current year; and
- Propose adjustments to planning process or budget for the current year as necessary or appropriate.

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Meeting (May)

SWAT Meeting

- Present preliminary SWAT study results;
- Determine additional SWAT study sensitivities;
- Review the Ten Year Transmission Plans that were submitted in January by the transmission providers; and
- Formally invite transmission customers' and stakeholders' review, comment, advice and transmission study requests for the SWAT transmission planning process.

WestConnect TTC/ATC Presentation

- Each WestConnect transmission provider briefs transmission customers and stakeholders on calculations for Total Transfer Capability and long-term Available Transfer Capability for each of its posted paths.

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting (August)

SWAT Meeting

- Annual Joint SWAT-CCPG-Sierra meeting;

- SWAT, CCPG and Sierra present current study results and approve key results, findings, and conclusions.

#### WestConnect Planning Workshop

- Presentation of each current year study supported by (i) final report or (ii) status summary report.
- Presentation of each WestConnect transmission provider's current transmission plans, discussion of future study needs by the study groups, TEPPC and stakeholders

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting (October/November)

#### SWAT Meeting

- Present draft SWAT report for approval with modifications;
- SWAT specifically invites the submittal of transmission study requests from stakeholders for inclusion in their respective study plans.

### **C. WestConnect's Role in SWAT and the subregional transmission planning process.**

1. The West Connect Project Agreement formalizes relationships and establishes obligations among the signatory transmission providers to coordinate regional transmission planning among the WestConnect participants, and the subregional planning groups (SWAT-CCPG-Sierra) and produce a WestConnect Transmission Plan. Such obligations are summarized in III.B.6 above and set forth in detail in the WestConnect Objectives and Procedures.
2. Under the WestConnect Objectives and Procedures, PNM, along with the other WestConnect STP Project Agreement participants, agrees to work through the SWAT, CCPG and Sierra planning processes to integrate its respective transmission plans into one ten year regional transmission plan for the WestConnect footprint by:
  - a. Actively participating in the subregional processes, including submitting its respective expansion plan, associated study work and pertinent financial, technical and engineering data to SWAT to support the validity of PNM's plan.
  - b. Coordinating, developing and updating common base cases to be used for all study efforts within the SWAT, CCPG and Sierra planning groups and ensure that each plan adheres to the common methodology and format developed jointly by SWAT and CCPG for this planning purpose.

- c. Providing funding for the WestConnect STP planning management functions through the STP Project Agreement.
- d. Retaining an independent facilitator to oversee the WestConnect STP Project Agreement process and ensure comparability among the subregional processes and perform the study work required to pull all the plans together.
- e. Maintaining a regional planning section on the WestConnect website where all WestConnect planning information, including meeting notices, meeting minutes, reports, presentations and other pertinent information is posted.
- f. Posting detailed notices on all SWAT, CCPG and Sierra STP meeting agendas on the WestConnect website.

#### **IV. Coordination at the Regional Level**

On a west-wide regional basis, PNM will coordinate its plan through SWAT and WestConnect. WestConnect will coordinate its subregional plan with the other subregional plans in the Western Interconnection and at the TEPPC level.

##### **A. Procedures for regional planning project review**

1. WECC coordination of reliability planning.
  - a. WECC develops the Western Interconnection wide databases for transmission planning analysis such as power flow, stability, and dynamic voltage stability studies.
  - b. WECC also maintains a database for reporting the status of all planned projects throughout the Western Interconnection.
  - c. WECC provides for coordination of planned projects through its Procedures for Regional Planning project review.
  - d. WECC's path rating process ensures that a new project will have no adverse effect on existing projects.
2. Western Interconnection wide economic planning studies are conducted by the WECC-TEPPC in an open stakeholder process that holds region-wide stakeholder meetings on a regular basis. The WECC-TEPPC planning process is posted on its website (see [www.wecc.biz](http://www.wecc.biz)). PNM participates in the regional planning processes, as appropriate, to ensure data and assumptions are coordinated.

3. Role of WECC-TEPPC: WECC-TEPPC provides two main functions in relation to the PNM planning process.
  - a. Development and maintenance of the west-wide economic planning study database.
    - i. TEPPC uses publicly available data to compile a database that can be used by a number of economic congestion study tools; and
    - ii. TEPPC's database is publicly available for use in running economic congestion studies. For an interested transmission customer or stakeholder to utilize WECC's Pro-Mod planning model, such transmission customer or stakeholder must comply with the WECC confidentiality requirements.
  - b. Performance of economic planning studies. TEPPC has an annual study cycle during which it will update databases, develop and approve a study plan that includes studying transmission customer high priority economic study requests as determined by the open TEPPC stakeholder process and perform the studies and document the results in a report.
4. For more detail on TEPPC *see* [www.wecc.biz](http://www.wecc.biz) TEPPC Transmission Planning Protocol.

## **V. Dispute Resolution.**

All disputes arising out of this Attachment K shall be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution provisions contained in Section 12 of the PNM OATT.

## **VI. Cost Allocation**

In accordance with the WestConnect Objectives and Procedures for Regional Transmission Planning approved by the WestConnect Steering Committee dated August 24, 2005 (at Exhibit B, Section 4.3.12), the Parties to the November 20, 2005 WestConnect Memorandum of Understanding agree,

*To the maximum extent practical, to use an open season solicitation, multi-party transmission ownership and the potential co-existence of both physical and financial transmission rights for transmission projects planned under the WestConnect processes.*

This approach, used for the development, construction, ownership and operation of bulk power facilities, has been implemented successfully throughout the Western Interconnection for more than 30 years.

This approach, used to solicit interest and participation in the development of new bulk power facilities in the Western Interconnection, is also incorporated in the WECC Policies and Procedures for Regional Planning Project Review, Project Rating Review and Progress Reports. Those policies and procedures include mechanisms (i) for WECC members and others to report on planned projects and to work together to expand the interconnected system capacity according to member and stakeholder needs; and (ii) to inform others of the opportunity to participate in or review a project and to solicit participation in a project in order to avoid duplicate projects and allow a new project to integrate others' needs by mutual agreements.

**A. Process Used to Solicit Interest in a Proposed Project.**

1. Solicitation of Interest. Project sponsor announces project and actively or verbally solicits interest in the project through informational meetings, information posted on the project sponsor's website, and industry press releases.
2. Project sponsor holds meetings with interested parties and meetings with public utility staffs from potentially affected states.
3. Project sponsor posts information *via* WECC's Planning Project Review reports.
4. Role of Project Sponsor.
  - a. To develop the initial project specifications, the initial cost estimates and potential transmission line routes.
  - b. To guide negotiations in assisting interested parties to determine cost responsibility for initial studies.
  - c. To guide the project through the applicable line siting processes.
  - d. To develop final project specifications and costs.
  - e. To obtain commitments from participants for final project cost shares and secure execution of construction and operating agreements.

It is possible that the cost allocation principles for economic studies may be different from the cost allocation methods for projects involving multiple owners. PNM, together with WestConnect and WECC, will seek input from stakeholders in proposing cost allocation methods.