March 15, 2017

Philip Augustin
TSS Chair

Doug Tucker
WECC Staff

Subject: TransWest Express Project Annual Progress Report

Dears Sirs:

This letter is the 2017 Annual Progress Report for the TransWest Express (TWE) Project.

TWE Project Description

TransWest Express LLC (TransWest) is developing the TWE Project, a 3,000 MW, 600 kV, line commutated, bi-pole high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project. TransWest and Western Area Power Administration (Western) have entered into a joint development agreement under which Western may become a 50% owner of the TWE Project.

The TWE Project is approximately 730 miles long and will be connected to the AC transmission grid in south central Wyoming and in south eastern Nevada. The primary intended use of the TWE Project is to deliver wind generated electricity from Wyoming to markets in the desert southwest. The TWE Project is planned to be in service in 2021.

TWE Project Status

On February 1, 2010 the TWE Project achieved Phase 2 status in the Project Rating Review Process with a Planned Rating of 3,000 MW (north to south). During 2010, a Project Review Group (PRG) was formed for the TWE Project. A Phase 2 Study Plan and a base case for the Phase 2 studies were approved by the PRG in February 2011. Since that time, TransWest has continued to pursue an Accepted Rating for the TWE Project. However, these efforts were interrupted, initially, to consider the impacts of other transmission projects being developed that
might interact with the TWE Project, and later, to consider potentially significant simultaneous interactions with the California-Oregon Intertie (COI or WECC Path 66).

TransWest reinitiated the Phase 2 process in June 2015 focusing on achieving a 1,500 MW Accepted Rating for the first phase of development of the TWE Project. The PRG approved a revised Phase 2 Study Plan and the foundational base case on December 18, 2015 moving the TWE Project into Phase 2B of the path rating process. Results for many of the studies listed in the Study Plan were presented to the PRG during a webinar on June 16, 2016. The remaining study results will be presented to the PRG in March 2017 and TransWest expects to complete Phase 2 in the second quarter of 2017.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the TWE Project has been successfully completed. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Western were co-lead agencies for this process. The Final EIS was released in May 2015. Records of Decision were issued by BLM in December 2016 and by Western in January 2017. The TWE Project is currently being evaluated by the CAISO, WestConnect and the Northern Tier Transmission Group as part of their Interregional Planning Coordination process.

Contact Information

Any questions about this report or the TWE Project can be directed to:

David Smith  
Director, Engineering & Operations  
TransWest Express, LLC  
555 17th Street, Suite 2400  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
(303) 299-1545  
david.smith@tac-denver.com

Sincerely,

David Smith