

ATTACHMENT L
DESCRIPTION OF RTO WEST
REGIONAL SCOPE AND CONFIGURATION

RTO West Scope and Regional Configuration

The RTO shall cover the transmission systems of all transmission owners willing to participate and located within the United States portion of the Northwest Power Pool. In addition, the RTO is designed to reasonably accommodate the addition of facilities of other transmission owners within the Western Systems Coordinating Council (WSCC) area. (See Attached Geographic Scope map).

The proposed boundaries of RTO West encompass a significant single contiguous geographic region ranging from the United States - Canadian border to the southern tip of the state of Nevada. The proposal covers approximately 580,000 square miles across eight states. It covers the transmission facilities of the following utilities and power marketing administration:

- Avista Corporation
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Idaho Power Company
- Montana Power Company
- Nevada Power Company
- PacifiCorp
- Portland General Electric
- Puget Sound Energy
- Sierra Pacific Resources

Inclusion of these transmission facilities under the operational control of RTO West encompasses the vast majority of interconnected facilities in the U.S. portion of the Northwest Power Pool. It encompasses transmission facilities of the Filing Utilities at the major energy trading hubs at the California-Oregon border (COB), Nevada-Oregon border (NOB), mid-Columbia (Mid-C) trading hub and interfaces at the Canadian border and the Mead/Four Corners area of the Southwest Power Pool. Through consolidation of the control area function of the entities listed above, RTO West will operate more than 90% of the existing high voltage transmission facilities within its proposed geographic scope.

RTO West will encompass the major existing control areas within the eight-state region. It will:

- Provide Total Transfer Capacity (TTC) and Available Transfer Capacity (ATC) determinations for all paths under its control.
- Be the sole entity to manage transmission congestion through the proposed physical rights model discussed in the filing.

- Eliminate transmission rate pancakes through the administration of the pricing proposal included in this filing.
- Possess the control authority to effectively address loop flow issues within its boundaries.
- Improve operation of the transmission grid under its control by consolidating control area operator functions of the Filing Utilities. We will be moving toward the creation of a single NERC-certified control area operator for the region under RTO West.
- RTO West will have a transmission planning back stop role for meeting load service obligations. It will identify reliability problems within its geographic scope and work with affected transmission owners to remedy the situation.

In addition to directly controlling facilities within the proposed geographic area, RTO West Filing Utilities have worked actively with other utilities throughout the region and with Canadian entities to create an RTO that covers the widest geographic area possible.

In conclusion, the filing utilities believe this filing satisfies the scope and configuration characteristic of the Final Rule. We respectfully request Commission approval on the regional scope and configuration of the RTO West Filing.