

## **TransWest Express teams up on transmission development work**

With the common goal of bringing new transmission to the Rocky Mountain and Southwest regions, APS, PacifiCorp, National Grid and the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority (WIA) today announced they entered into an agreement to work together on preliminary development of new high-voltage transmission lines for the West.

The agreement builds on PacifiCorp's May 30, 2007 announcement the company would construct, by 2014, more than 1,200 miles of new 500-kilovolt transmission lines necessary to address the long-term, growing energy needs of the six states it serves and to access planned renewable energy resources. One segment of that proposed transmission project, a southern route line from eastern Wyoming into Utah and on to the Southwest, has aspects in common with a project proposed in October 2005 by APS.

At that time, APS announced plans to explore the TransWest Express Project's (TWE) feasibility of building electric transmission lines from Wyoming to Arizona to meet its customers' long-term growth needs. In March 2006, APS signed a memorandum of understanding with the WIA and National Grid to collaborate on this study. In December 2006, APS completed a feasibility report that concluded TWE potentially creates significant benefits for its customers. APS and other interested parties have been pursuing the next phase of developing the TWE project.

In the interim agreement, the four parties agree to work together on initial activities during the next six months to co-develop these projects, with a decision on next steps to be made in 2008.

By working together on new transmission infrastructure, the parties believe there may be substantial advantages for the region, including:

- ▶ the ability to meet growing demand for electricity;
- ▶ improved overall electric reliability for the West;
- ▶ improved access for renewable energy resources;
- ▶ better use of transmission corridors;
- ▶ opportunities to coordinate permitting processes; and
- ▶ economies of scale and cost savings in development and construction activities.

National Grid will act as the lead developer with support from APS, PacifiCorp and the WIA.

Source: *APS Newslines*, 8/14/07