



# WRP Energy Committee Update

---

Lucas Lucero

WRP Energy Committee Co-Chair

# WRP Energy Committee Co-Chairs

---

- **Steven Arenson**, Deputy Director, Strategic Plans and Programs, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations
- **Jim Bartridge**, Senior Transmission Program Specialist, Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division, California Energy Commission
- **Angie Dykema**, Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Energy
- **Lucas Lucero**, Deputy State Director, Lands, Minerals & Energy, BLM, AZ State Office
- **Leroy Shingoitewa**, Hopi Tribal Council Representative

# WRP Energy Committee Goals

---

- Explore energy-related findings from 2017 WRP Regional Assessment; summarize changes in policy, trends and energy projects
- Share information on renewable energy and transmission projects; highlight agency planning efforts
- Enhance WRP Partner awareness of energy generation and transmission planning processes and engagement opportunities

The above completed through hosting of webinars, conducting a survey, monitoring energy efforts over the past year and research.

# Energy in the WRP Region

---

- Energy programs and policies are evolving at all levels (state, federal and Tribal)
  - There will be four new Governors in WRP States as a result of the November 2018 election
  - Federal environmental reviews and planning efforts are being streamlined
- Load centers are far removed from generation, requiring long transmission lines
- Diverse existing energy generation resources, both conventional and alternative, and significant transmission corridors
- Conducive to alternative forms of energy, including wind, solar and geothermal, and hydroelectric
- Recently the focus has shifted from renewable energy and transmission infrastructure to ensuring grid resilience while integrating all forms of energy

Early and frequent engagement is key to success and WRP has been helpful with that.

# **WRP Energy Committee Accomplishments**

## **Information Sharing on Key Critical Elements**

---

Three Webinars – Ten Presenters:

- **Section 368 Regional Corridors Review Project**

- Presenters: BLM, Argonne National Lab

- **Regional Energy Market Trends and Options**

- Presenters: CA Independent System Operator (ISO), Black Hills Energy (participates in Mountain West Transmission Group) and Southwest Power Pool

- **Tribal Energy**

- Presenters: Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, DOI Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, University of Montana School of Law and Naval Air Systems Command

# WRP Energy Committee

## Highlighting BLM Activities

---

- DOI guidance in Secretarial Orders (SO) and BLM policies on permitting and environmental reviews
- Many BLM land use plans underway-
  - Southern California Edison Utility Transmission Extension Project
  - Renewable Energy Transmission in Riverside County, California
  - Record oil and gas lease sales in New Mexico
  - Ten West Transmission Project, a 500-kV transmission line from Tonopah, AZ, to Blythe, CA.
  - 450 MW Desert Quartzite Solar Project and 500 MW Palen Solar Photovoltaic Project in eastern Riverside County CA
  - Potential changes to the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
  - Proposed Keystone Exploratory Project
  - Public Land Order for lands in Nevada
- Energy projects on BLM lands-
  - Crescent Peak Wind Energy Project, 500 MW near Searchlight, NV
  - Gemini Solar Project, 690 MW 25 miles northeast of Las Vegas, NV
  - Yellow Pine Solar Project, 250 MW 32 miles west of Las Vegas, NV
  - McGinness Hills Geothermal Project, 48 MW 10 miles north of Austin, NV

# WRP Energy Committee

## Selected State Activities

---

- CA Senate Bill 100 - increased Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 60% by 2030 and 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2045
- CA collaboration with DoD and DOI on potential offshore wind generation areas in Federal waters
- NV voters preliminary approval of Ballot Question 6 to increase RPS to 50% by 2030 – will appear again on the 2020 general election ballot
- NV multiple utility-scale solar and geothermal projects under review or in development
- NM regulators approve 2,200 MW wind project on 300,000 acres

# WRP Energy Committee

## Highlighting DoD and Tribal

---

- DoD Clearinghouse

- Coordination with industry and Governors on both offshore (within FAA jurisdiction) and land-based energy projects that may impact military operations/readiness
- Potentially to publish geographic concern maps in WRP Region to better inform project developers
- Interested in working with states to improve interoperability development in areas such as drop zones and MTRs

- Tribal Energy

- Much of Indian Country is rural and remote, so it is expensive to run transmission lines
- Navajo Nation celebrates expansion of its largest solar energy project

# WRP Energy Committee

## Energy Trends

---

- United States largest global crude oil producer
- Declining federal financial energy interventions and subsidies
- Coal-fired plants continue to close
- Wind energy expected to surpass hydro nationwide
- Nearly half of utility-scale generation capacity installed in 2017 came from solar, wind and hydro
- Wind and solar provided 10 states with 20 percent or more of electricity in 2017; significant increases in energy storage
- The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM), which allows participants to share resources in real-time, continues to expand geographically
- Transmission projects under development meet expected needs/little congestion expected before 2026