

## **WESTCONNECT – SWAT – CCPG PRINCIPLES FOR SUB-REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING**

To enhance the regional transmission planning and coordination efforts of electric utilities and other entities in the Rocky Mountain Sub-region and the Desert Southwest Sub-region, the WestConnect parties, the Southwest Area Transmission planning group (SWAT), and the Colorado Coordinated Planning Group (CCPG) have developed the following principles for coordinating transmission planning of the entire WestConnect footprint. Presently, the two sub-regional transmission planning groups (SWAT and CCPG) provide the coordinated planning forums for each of their respective sub-regions and collectively cover the entire WestConnect area.

Since SWAT and CCPG sub-regional planning groups were initially established independently by different forces, principles and membership, it is reasonable that the sub-regional planning organizations continue to conduct focused planning efforts for their sub-regions. Additionally, coordination of their sub-regional efforts will bring benefits to WestConnect and all other utilities and entities through representation of a larger region. For this reason, the following principles for coordination of sub-regional transmission planning have been developed.

In support of the WestConnect transmission planning goals, SWAT and CCPG agree to:

- Conduct a biennial near and long-term transmission system plan in accordance with NERC/WECC planning criteria
- Provide input for WestConnect to produce a single near and long-term transmission plan/document that addresses all the transmission needs across the entire WestConnect footprint.
- Coordinate efforts such that the transmission plans of each sub-regional group are developed on the same cycle.
- Coordinate base case development for the WestConnect region
- Commit to coordinate and share information regarding planning efforts between CCPG and SWAT, and subsequently with WestConnect.
- Maintain individual sub-regional planning processes and procedures, but ensure no redundancies occur in the WestConnect footprint.
- Where appropriate, develop coordinated transmission plans.