

Submitted by email, 3.1.2024:

Public Service (PSCo) values the opportunity to provide comments regarding CETA's Transmission Capacity Expansion Study.

At the Stakeholder Meeting on 2/9/2024, Energy Strategies presented a block-diagram of the Study Process on Slide 11. The meeting only introduced the methodology for the Transmission Plan Review and the Capacity Expansion Plan tasks. However, PSCo would like more information on the methodology for the "Identify Solutions" block. Regarding CETA identifying a transmission solution, PSCo would like to be engaged on any potential issues identified on the PSCo transmission system within the study results, and consulted if CETA develops any transmission solutions.

In the Transmission Plan Review, PSCo recommends including other public transmission reports, including the WestConnect bi-annual reports, in addition to the already planned review of reports filed with the Colorado PUC (CPUC). There could be some benefit observed in reviewing the Colorado Coordinated Planning Group (CCPG) reports as well.

Energy Strategies presented a list of 7 Potential Scenario Differentiators (Slide 16) and requested feedback and prioritization. PSCo suggests the CETA Transmission Study prioritize the following themes/variables in developing the scenarios that focus on longer-range drivers for transmission investment in Colorado: 1) Electrification & new loads, 2) Resource siting preferences, and 3) DER deployment. PSCo sees these themes as an opportunity to bring a common awareness amongst all stakeholders on transmission expansion for a 20-year future with higher system load levels due to electrification, the location and cost of resources needed to meet the higher loads, and the impact of different levels of DER adoption.

Thank you,
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