

COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STRATEGIC PLAN

WHEREAS, the Colorado Electric Transmission Authority (“Authority”) is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, by virtue of organization under Title 40, Article 42, C.R.S., and is governed by its Board of Directors (“Board”); and

WHEREAS, the Board is responsible for the management, control and supervision of all of the business and affairs of the Authority, including financial matters; and

WHEREAS, the Authority’s purpose is to facilitate the expansion of electric transmission facilities to enable Colorado to meet its clean energy goals, increase grid reliability, and aid in economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Board has established strategic priorities for its initial three-year planning period and, in furtherance thereof, desires to adopt the Strategic Plan set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Colorado Electric Transmission Authority that:

1. **Strategic Plan**. The Board hereby approves the Colorado Electric Transmission Authority Strategic Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference.
2. **Effective Date**. This Resolution will take effect and be enforced immediately upon its approval by the Board.

Adopted this 8th day of February, 2024.

COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
AUTHORITY

By: _____

Kathleen Staks, Chair

Attest:

Michelle Zimmerman, Secretary

EXHIBIT A

Strategic Plan

[Attached]

Background

This document outlines the Board’s strategic direction for CETA. It was developed through a participatory process and shaped through stakeholder input obtained through an open comment period. It is intended to set strategic priorities for CETA staff and committees over a three-year planning cycle.

CETA’s Role in Colorado

CETA is a political subdivision of the state and is an independent public body. CETA’s purpose is *to facilitate the expansion of electric transmission facilities to enable Colorado to meet its clean energy goals, increase grid reliability, and aid in economic development*. CETA’s general powers include the power to enter into partnerships with public and private entities; the power to exercise eminent domain to acquire transmission rights-of-way; and the power to issue revenue bonds to finance, plan, acquire, maintain, and operate transmission facilities. CETA works with a broad community of stakeholders to execute its mission. CETA is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine independent Directors.

CETA’s value proposition is to facilitate the expansion of electric transmission facilities using four specific powers:

1. Engaging in transmission planning activities to identify the need for expanded transmission capacity in the State.
 - CETA considers the ability to expand capacity through the construction of new transmission lines; through improvements and upgrades to existing transmission lines; and through interconnection to organized wholesale electricity markets.
 - CETA considers options such as storage and advanced transmission technologies to increase the efficient use of the transmission system.
 - CETA considers options such as reconductoring existing transmission lines, co-locating new transmission lines in existing transmission corridors, and utilizing transportation corridors, to efficiently use existing rights-of-way.
 - CETA considers the full range of potential benefits of new transmission, including increased reliability, fuel cost savings and economic development benefits and equity considerations within communities around the state.

2. Establishing corridors for the transmission of electricity within Colorado and to negotiate with entities to establish interstate transmission corridors.
 - CETA conducts objective and independent analysis of potential transmission corridors and reviews available existing reports related to the existing system.
 - CETA conducts open and transparent stakeholder engagement to collect and consider the input and comments of all stakeholders.
 - CETA engages with WestConnect, the Colorado Coordinated Planning Group, NorthernGrid, WECC, the Western Power Pool, the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority, and other regional entities to facilitate dialogue and identify potential areas for collaboration on interregional and interstate transmission and to ensure that CETA's efforts are aligned with, and not unnecessarily duplicative with, regional activities.
 - CETA consults with the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, the Colorado Energy Office, and local governments in Colorado, including counties, municipalities, and special districts, to understand how transmission can facilitate opportunities for economic development in Colorado.

3. Partnering with existing transmission owners, generation developers, and/or transmission developers to finance, plan, acquire, maintain, and operate electric transmission facilities and related structures, properties, and supporting infrastructure.
 - CETA's contracting requirements ensure that any construction, expansion, or maintenance of facilities performed for CETA and its counterparties is performed by employees of an electric utility or by qualified contractors with a registered apprenticeship program.
 - CETA consults with the U.S. Department of Energy, including the Grid Deployment Office and the Loan Program Office, and with its Power Marketing Administrations, including the Western Area Power Administration, to explore synergistic opportunities to access wholesale electricity markets.

4. Conducting business and taking formal action in meetings that are open to the public, while protecting proprietary technical or business information obtained from others from public disclosure.

- CETA engages with a wide range of stakeholders including state and federal agencies, local governments, electric utilities, transmission owners, operators, developers, and users, ratepayer advocates, environmental advocates, tribal nations, labor unions, private landowners, community organizations, and individual citizens to investigate the impacts of the improvements to and expansion of transmission facilities from multiple perspectives.
- CETA collects and considers relevant data from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species, habitats, and ecosystems.
- CETA engages with the four primary federal land management agencies, the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and National Park Service (NPS), to facilitate and streamline the permitting process for transmission lines that cross federal lands.

The Board recognizes that many entities are working to achieve clean energy goals in Colorado and across the West. While CETA will not enter into a project if an electric utility or a nonincumbent transmission provider or other entity is financing, planning, or constructing contemplated facilities, the Board does believe CETA should be proactive in conducting planning studies, identifying transmission corridors, partnering with existing transmission owners, generation developers, and/or transmission developers, and conducting open public meetings to enable Colorado to meet its clean energy goals.

Strategic Priorities

To further CETA's mission and deliver on its value proposition, the Board has established the following strategic priorities for its initial three-year planning period:

1. Complete a comprehensive set of transmission expansion studies for Colorado that consider the construction of new transmission lines and improvements to existing transmission lines; that consider the use of storage and advanced transmission technologies; and that consider co-locating new transmission lines in existing corridors and the reconductoring of existing transmission lines to efficiently use existing rights-of-way.
2. Establish at least one corridor for the transmission of electricity within Colorado after conducting objective and independent analysis of potential corridors and conducting an open and transparent

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stakeholder engagement process to collect and consider the input and comments of all stakeholders. If CETA's or other entities' transmission studies fail to identify a need for a transmission corridor within Colorado, the Board will promptly replace this strategic priority.

3. Identify at least one priority transmission project, after conducting objective and independent analysis of the need for expanded transmission capacity and engaging with interested stakeholders, and provide an initial notice to the public and affected interests that CETA proposes to finance, plan, acquire, maintain, and operate the eligible transmission facilities. If CETA's or other entities' transmission studies fail to identify a need for a transmission project, the Board will promptly replace this strategic priority.
4. Partner with at least two existing transmission owners, generation developers and/or transmission developers to support the expansion of electric transmission facilities in Colorado or to improve Colorado's interconnection to existing or planned organized wholesale electricity markets, other regional transmission providers, or regional resource adequacy programs.

Organizational Priorities

The Board also affirms its own role and the role of the Executive Director in leading the organization and managing its day-to-day operations. To that end, two organizational priorities are also of strategic importance:

1. Ensure CETA has diverse sources of funding (i.e., inter-governmental agreements, federal grants, developer contributions) to deliver on its mission to expand transmission in Colorado.
2. Ensure CETA has the capacity (i.e., budget, staff, access to subject matter expertise) to deliver on its mission to expand transmission availability in Colorado.

Implementation

The Board and the Executive Director will strive to accomplish these strategic and organizational priorities by June 2026. To implement these strategic and organization priorities, the Board has created three standing committees: the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee, the Transmission Planning Committee, and the Partnership Development Committee. These committees will identify specific actions needed to achieve the priorities identified in this document. Any actions taken by CETA will be discussed and taken in open public meetings and will reflect the input received from a wide range of

Strategic Plan February 2024

stakeholders including state and federal agencies, local governments, electric utilities, transmission owners, operators, developers, and users, ratepayer advocates, environmental advocates, tribal nations, labor unions, private landowners, and individual citizens. The strategic and organizational priorities identified in this document will guide the development of CETA's annual business plan and budget in the coming years.