Energy Markets and Transmission Acronyms

BA
Balancing authority – Entity that integrates resources, manages transmission, and balances supply/demand in a balancing area.

BPA
Bonneville Power Administration – Federal hydropower agency managing transmission in the Northwest.

CAISO
California Independent System Operator – Runs most of California's power grid and part of Nevada.

Co-op
Cooperative Utility – Nonprofit, member-owned utility (common in rural and tribal areas).

DAM
Day-ahead market – Market where electricity is bought/sold for the next day.

DER
Distributed Energy Resources – Small-scale energy like solar, batteries, and demand response.

DOE
U.S. Department of Energy – Federal agency overseeing national energy policy.

DOE- IE
DOE Office of Indian Energy – Provides tribes funding and technical help for projects.

DR
Demand Response – Shifting/lowering energy use during peak demand times.

Drivers
The way Tribes may pursue, or advance benefits related to their energy goals.

EIM
Energy imbalance market – Real-time market for utilities to trade power and balance supply.

EDAM
Extended Day-Ahead Market – CAISO-operated day-ahead market to begin operations May 2026).

Planned Participants:

- Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)
- Imperial Irrigation District (IID)
- Turlock Irrigation District (TID)
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)
- PacifiCorp
- Portland General Electric (PGE)
- NV Energy
- Other possible participants include Idaho Power, PowerWatch (formerly BHE Montana), Arizona G&T Cooperatives, and WAPA SN region.

FERC
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – Regulates interstate power markets and transmission.

GHG
Greenhouse Gas – Gases like carbon dioxide and methane that drive climate change.

HVDC
High-voltage Direct Current – A way to transfer electricity more efficiently over long distances by utilizing high-voltage transmission lines.

IEED
Office of Indian Energy & Economic Development – Supports tribal energy/economic development.

IIJA
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act– Financial support provided to U.S. states, territories, and local governments through federal programs.

IOU
Investor-Owned Utility – For-profit utility regulated by state commissions.

IRP
Integrated Resource Plan – Utility's long-term energy plan.

IRA
Inflation Reduction Act – Financial support provided to U.S. states, territories, and local governments through federal programs.

ISO
Independent System Operator – A non-profit organization that coordinates the transmission grid primarily in a single state.

Markets+
Markets Plus – SPP-operated day-ahead market to begin operations in the West in 2027.

Planned Participants:

- Arizona Public Service (APS)
- Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)
- Chelan County Public Utility District (Chelan PUD)
- Grant Country Public Utility District (Grant PUD)
- Powerex
- Puget Sound Energy (PSE)
- Salt River Project (SRP)
- Tacoma Power
- Tucson Electric Power (TEP)
- Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) / Xcel
- El Paso Electric (EPE)

NEPA
National Environmental Policy Act – Federal law requiring environmental reviews for projects.

NERC
North American Electric Reliability Corporation – Sets and enforces grid reliability standards.

Net-benefit
Positive outcome that remains after accounting for all costs, drawbacks, and losses associated with a decision, project, or action.

PCM
Production Cost Model – Software that allows transmission planners to forecast the most cost-effective way to operate an electrical power system.

PSC/PUC
Public Service/Utility Commission – State regulators overseeing utilities and energy policy.

State utility regulators in the Mountain West:

- Arizona Corporation Commission
- Colorado Public Utilities Commission
- Montana Public Service Commission
- Nevada Public Utilities Commission
- New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
- Utah Public Service Commission
- Wyoming Public Service Commission.

RA
Resource Adequacy – Requirement that utilities have enough power to meet demand.

ROWE
Regional Organization for Western Energy – An independent governance organization that could oversee market rules and decision-making for a future regional market in the Western U.S.

RTO
Regional Transmission Organization – A non-profit organization that coordinates the transmission grid across multiple states.

SPP
Southwest Power Pool – RTO running Central U.S. grid, expanded into the West in April 2026.

Western participants:

- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Deseret Power Electric Cooperative
- Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska
- Platte River Power Authority
- Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
- Western Area Power Administration UGP-West, CRSP, and RM regions
- Additional municipal or coop utilities in AZ, CO, MT, NE, NM, UT, and WY

TBA
Tribal Benefits Agreement – Legally binding agreements between Tribes and external entities to ensure Tribes receive economic, social, and cultural benefits from projects affecting their lands.

TO
Transmission Owner – The entity that owns the transmission facility.

TSP
Transmission Service Provider – An entity that provides transmission services to customers.

TOU
Tribal-Owned Utility – Utility created and operated by a tribal government.

WAPA
Western Area Power Administration – Federal hydropower agency serving the Western U.S.

Five regions:

- Upper Great Plains (UGP)
- Rocky Mountain (RM)
- Desert Southwest (DSW)
- Sierra Nevada (SN)
- Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP)

WECC
Western Electricity Coordinating Council – Oversees grid reliability in the Western U.S.

WEIM
Western Energy Imbalance Market – CAISO-run energy imbalance market with many Western participants representing 80+% of demand in the West.

Participants:

- Arizona Public Service
- Avangrid
- Avista
- Balancing Authority of Northern
- California
- Bonneville Power Administration
- California ISO
- El Paso Electric
- Idaho Power Company
- Los Angeles Department of Water &
- Power
- NorthWestern Energy
- NV Energy
- PacifiCorp
- Portland General Electric
- Powerex
- Public Service Company of New Mexico
- Puget Sound
- Salt River Project
- Seattle City Light
- Tacoma Power
- Turlock Irrigation District
- Tucson Electric Power
- WAPA Desert Southwest Region

WEIS
Western Energy Imbalance Service – Real-time market run by SPP for Western utilities, ceased operations in April 2026.

WestTEC
Western Transmission Expansion Coalition – WPP program for coordinating transmission expansion.

WPP
Western Power Pool – Group of utilities coordinating in the West on projects like WestTEC and the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP).

WWGPI or 'Pathways'
West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative – Regional effort for Western electricity market governance.