

The REZ approach does have potential drawbacks, including a longer planning process. As the WREZ initiative has shown, aligning ideals and system requirements for such a large geographic area can get complicated. Determining which areas should be included, and the type and amount of energy to be generated, is also complex and controversial for energy planners. The REZ approach does not necessarily simplify the challenges faced by energy developers either. Although resources outside of REZs may still be viable development opportunities, those projects may find it more difficult to obtain the necessary transmission structure than projects inside the zones. Because zone designations can occur at any level – local, state, or regional – developers need to understand the planning processes that are happening at all levels.

The major developments in REZ-based planning in 2009, especially with the CREZ process advancing on schedule, appear to be the first of many. Although these developments occur against an already bewildering backdrop of federal initiatives, the REZ approach is likely to become increasingly important and relevant for energy developers.



For more information, please contact
Dale Beckmann
VP, Transmission Development
dale.beckmann@westwoodps.com
952-906-7475