



SNRPC

**Southern Nevada
Regional Planning Coalition**



ABOVEGROUND UTILITY POLICIES

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INTRODUCTION

SNRPC member entities have coordinated preparation of this general policy document. It is intended to assist the SNRPC member entities in complying with NRS requirements, the SNRPC Regional Policy Plan to include policies listed in this report, and the SNRPC Policies for Projects of Regional Significance.

The need for this Plan is driven by:

- Requirements of AB239, adopted by the Nevada State Legislature in 2013.
- A substantial decrease in demand for Renewable Energy due to fulfillment of the State's Renewable Portfolio Standards ("RPS").
- Renewable energy generation resources located in Nevada becoming more attractive to neighboring electric markets such as California, which has significant RPS requirements to fulfill in the next ten to fifteen years.

Historically, Nevada's transmission grid has not been constructed with a focus on exporting electric generation out of state. Recently, however, the focus has evolved to investigate routing, permitting and constructing interstate transmission lines for the primary purpose of moving renewable power in and out of Nevada to neighboring electric markets.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with NRS 278.165, every governing body that is required to prepare and adopt a master plan must include both a process for designating corridors for aboveground utility projects (aboveground electric transmission lines designed to operate at 200 kilovolts or more) as well as designate those corridors to be consistent with the Nevada State Office of Energy, adjacent jurisdictions, and the Bureau of Land Management.

OBJECTIVES

Cooperatively develop policies and maps to assist member entities in meeting the requirements of NRS 278.165. This includes:

1. Preparation of a proposed update to the SNRPC's Regional Policy Plan;
2. A common set of recommended policies and Regional Aboveground Utility Corridor Map for potential use by the member entities.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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Adopt the Regional Aboveground Utility Plan Policies listed below as a part of the Regional Policy Plan.

MEMBER ENTITIES

Update member entity Comprehensive Plans to reflect SNRPC recommendations.

POLICIES

1. Ensure that proposed Aboveground Utility Projects follow the SNRPC's process for Projects of Regional Significance.
2. Use the Regional Aboveground Utility Corridor Map for conformity review of proposed Aboveground Utility Projects.
3. Support increasing capacity of existing utility corridors over establishing new ones.
4. If established corridors cannot meet utility demand, support the development of new multi-use utility corridors that ensure safe siting of transmission lines to minimize impacts on existing development.
5. Encourage the development of transmission capability and interconnectivity for distributed energy, cogeneration and alternative energy sources, including regional interconnectivity and transmission capability.