

Western Spirit Transmission | Fact Sheet

The Western Spirit Transmission Line (“Western Spirit”) is a proposed 345 kV transmission line that will connect more than 800 MW of wind power to the existing New Mexico grid. Western Spirit is currently owned by the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (NM RETA) and is being co-developed and constructed with Pattern Energy, a private renewable power company. Once the facility is operational it will be acquired by the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) in order to strengthen New Mexico’s existing grid and enhance its ability to run on renewable power. Western Spirit was identified by PNM as the best option for system capacity upgrades needed to enable 800 MW of wind energy projects, and has been under development by NM RETA since 2010 when it was first identified as a valuable line for New Mexico.

Protecting PNM Ratepayers

When wind projects request this kind of grid connection the wind companies are responsible for the added cost, so the Western Spirit upgrade will not be charged to existing PNM ratepayers. Instead the shareholders of PNM Resources will invest in Western Spirit and will be repaid with interest by Pattern Energy’s new wind projects over time through a new tariff which will require the approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

\$360 Million



Private investment

300+ Jobs



During peak construction

800+ MW Wind



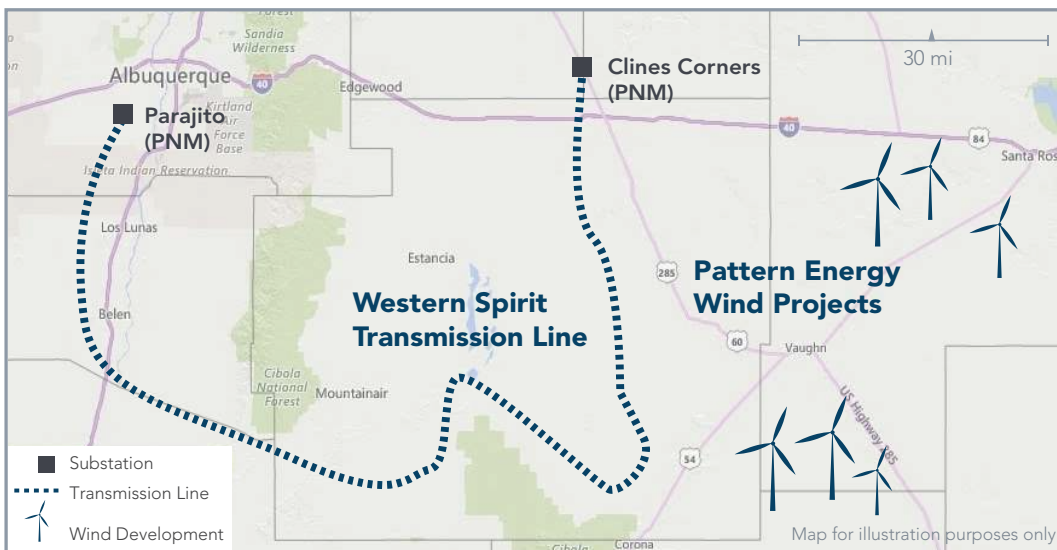
Connected to the grid

~165 Miles

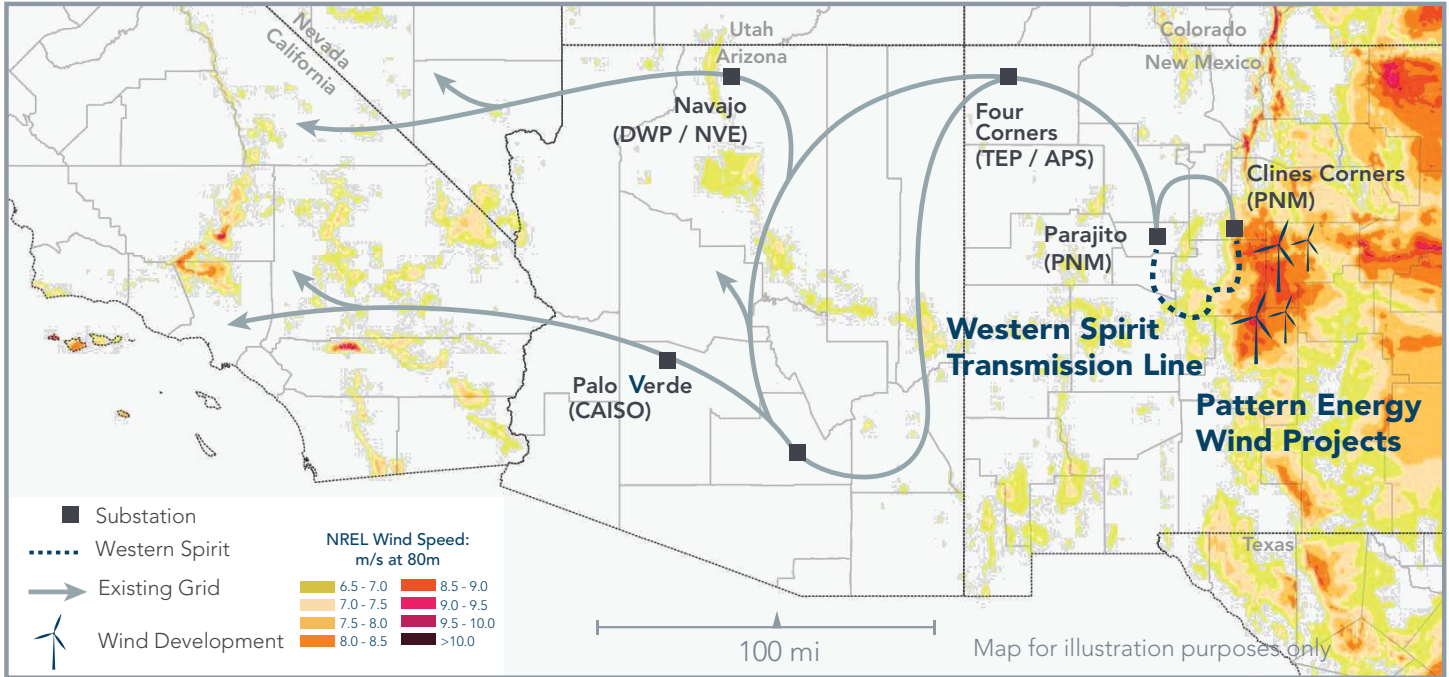


345 kV A/C power line

Project Area



Western Spirit Connects New Mexico Wind to the West



New Mexico has some of the best wind in the U.S. but our grid needs new capacity in order to bring that resource to market. Wind is also in high demand as the least cost electricity available. The wind enabled by Western Spirit will be available to customers throughout the west, including New Mexico.

Participating Entities



NM RETA is a state authority established by statute to identify and develop transmission to enable renewable energy in New Mexico. NM RETA first identified Western Spirit in 2010 as a benefit to the grid, and is the current owner and co-developer of the project.

General Inquiries
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Pattern Energy is NM RETA's private co-development partner for Western Spirit. Pattern Energy is a global leader in wind, solar, and transmission with over 5,000 MW placed in service, including New Mexico's largest wind energy investments to date.

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PNM is a regulated electric utility in New Mexico and the state's largest grid operator. PNM will acquire Western Spirit when it is operational as a capacity upgrade that will enable over 800 MW of new wind energy. The investment and acquisition cost will be repaid by Pattern Energy's wind projects.

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