

SB25-127: Colorado Grid Optimization Act

Sponsors: Senators Simpson and Roberts

Every day, millions of Coloradans rely on the electric grid to power their homes, businesses, vehicles, and more. Colorado is producing record amounts of clean energy, but our existing transmission infrastructure has insufficient capacity to meet the state's needs long-term.

To address this, more transmission is needed to be able to carry energy from where it's generated to where it's used. We also need to take better advantage of the transmission we already have. Optimizing our transmission system will improve reliability, prevent power outages during extreme weather events, and connect more renewable resources to the grid, helping to meet the state's clean energy goals.

The solution:

We can take better advantage of our existing grid by using advanced transmission technologies (ATTs): infrastructure, hardware, and software that cost-effectively increase the capacity and resilience of the existing transmission grid. ATTs like grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) and advanced conductors are practical tools for meeting increasing energy demand, integrating renewable resources, and enhancing system reliability and resilience.

SB25-127, sponsored by Senators Simpson and Roberts, aims to modernize Colorado's electric transmission infrastructure to support grid reliability, affordability, and clean energy integration through targeted updates to existing planning processes to make better use of advanced transmission technologies.

Key provisions of the bill:

- Requires utilities to examine the potential use of ATTs in their ERPs and transmission plans, and to provide justification for not using them (if they decide not to)
- Authorizes the PUC to examine the possibility of shared savings incentives for the use of ATTs and asks the utilities to consider ways to lower the cost of new transmission, including by using CETA financing
- Allows the PUC to consult with the Colorado Electric Transmission Authority (CETA) under an intergovernmental agreement when evaluating filed utility ATT plans or designing new incentives for the use of ATTs

Questions:

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