



UTAH OFFICE OF
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

For Immediate Release

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Utah Office of Energy Development and Partners to Improve Regional Grid with Half Billion Dollar RELIEF Project

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Office of Energy Development (OED) is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded \$249,557,047 from the Department of Energy’s Grid Deployment Office for project RELIEF (Reliable Electric Lines: Infrastructure Expansion Framework). An additional \$252,030,385 in matching dollars will be provided by project partners, PacifiCorp and Garkane, bringing the total project funding to over half a billion dollars.

RELIEF is an interstate and public-private interagency project that brings together Utah, Arizona, Idaho, Oregon, and Wyoming; the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO); California Independent System Operator; Western Power Pool; Utah State University; various vendors; and matching partners, PacifiCorp and Garkane. This comprehensive project aims to deploy advanced high-temperature, low-sag conductor cables, significantly improving grid reliability for 700,000 utility customers across five states (Utah, Arizona, Idaho, Oregon and Wyoming) and five tribal nations. By leveraging existing rights of way across 250 miles of power lines, RELIEF will boost transmission capacity, integrate more than 500 MW of renewable energy, and prevent over 5,500 hours of potential outages.

“It’s not an exaggeration to say that modern society exists because of energy,” says OED Acting Director Dusty Monks. “We need energy to sustain our way of life, to continue to advance, and to unleash our potential. RELIEF uses cutting-edge grid technologies so that Utah and our neighbors across the West can provide the reliable, affordable, and adequate energy our communities need. It also shows the power of collaborations, bringing together states, industry, and other organizations.”

“Securing federal funding to install advanced conductors is a transformative step toward modernizing our energy infrastructure,” said Curt Mansfield, PacifiCorp’s senior vice president of power delivery. “This investment not only enhances grid reliability and resilience but also supports the integration of renewable energy sources, driving us closer to a more sustainable and efficient energy future.”

In fact, RELIEF’s investment in grid reliability not only supports growing populations and thriving economies it also increases resilience against natural disasters, helps integrate renewable energy resources, and strengthens energy security in the region. A key focus of the project is on vulnerable communities and workforce development. About 55% of RELIEF’s efforts directly benefit underserved communities, and the project is expected to create 500 new jobs, achieved in part through a \$12 million investment in pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, master electricians, and other workforce training opportunities for more than 150 high schools and community colleges across rural and disadvantaged communities.

This landmark initiative will substantially increase the resilience of the West's grid and resources for developing the energy workforce of tomorrow. It also highlights the importance of bringing multiple stakeholders to the table, including government, industry, and energy-related organizations.

About OED

[OED](#) is the state's primary office responsible for energy and mineral development. We are charged with developing and implementing Utah's Energy Policy and resources, creating energy-related educational and workforce development programs, and promoting energy efficiency and infrastructure.

About PacifiCorp

PacifiCorp is one of the lowest-cost electrical providers in the United States, serving more than 2 million customers. The company operates as Rocky Mountain Power in Idaho, Utah and Wyoming and Pacific Power in California, Oregon and Washington. PacifiCorp provides safe and reliable service through a vast, integrated system of generation and transmission that connects communities with the largest regulated utility owner of wind power in the West. For more information, visit www.pacificorp.com.

About Garkane Power

[Garkane Energy Cooperative, Inc.](#) serves all or parts of six counties in South-Central Utah and two counties in North-Central Arizona, a rural area with considerable tourism. The Cooperative serves four national parks, two national monuments, a national recreation area, three national forests, and considerable FLM lands. We serve over 15,000 members across 16,000 square miles of service territory. We are owned by the members we serve.

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Media contact:

OED Public Information Officer Tracy M Rees at 385-775-9253