



Planning Committee Charter

Purpose

The NTTG Planning Group has been created to meet the following goal:

To provide a forum where all interested parties are encouraged to participate in the planning, coordination, and implementation of a robust transmission system that is capable of supporting an efficient west-wide electricity market while meeting WECC and NERC reliability standards. The wide participation envisioned in this process (including transmission owners, customers and state regulators) is intended to result in transmission expansion plans that meet a variety of needs and have a broad basis of support.

Authority of the Planning Committee

The NTTG Planning Committee is formed, as specified in the NTTG Planning Agreement, with the task of coordinating transmission planning within the NTTG footprint, coordination with other sub-regional planning groups and the WECC planning committees. The committee reports to the NTTG Steering Committee.

Principles

The planning group will operate according to the following principles:

1. **Coordination** – Coordinate between the entities developing the transmission system, including the regulatory community, and the entities that utilize and benefit from the transmission system. It will be the responsibility of the project participants to determine the specifics of a project such as the scope of the project, lead entity or entities, project participants, and funding.
2. **Openness** – Stakeholder meetings will be open to all interested parties and conducted in accordance with critical infrastructure and standard of conduct rules.
3. **Transparency** – Provide a forum for transmission owners and operators to clearly disclose the criteria, assumptions, and data that underlie their transmission system plans.

4. **Information Exchange** – Provide a forum for the exchange of information among transmission owners, regulators, and customers.
5. **Comparability** – Will develop transmission system plans that meet the needs of the sub-region and region and treat all customers comparably.
6. **Dispute Resolution** – Disputes will be resolved through the process defined in the Planning Agreement.
7. **Regional Participation** – This committee will coordinate its efforts with other sub-regional planning groups and WECC planning committees.
8. **Economic Planning Studies** – Economics, as well as reliability, will be considered in the transmission planning process.
9. **Cost Allocation** – Cost allocation recommendations will be addressed by the NTTG Cost Allocation Committee
10. **Recovery of Planning Costs** – Cost recovery is defined in the NTTG Planning Agreement.
11. **Collaboration with Regulators** – Transmission plans will be developed in close collaboration with regulators to facilitate the implementation of energy policy, information sharing, and enhance and streamline project permitting, financing and construction.
12. **Avoid Duplication** - NTTG will perform technical study work that is not duplicative of work done by others and will rely as much as possible on the technical studies conducted by Transmission Providers, project sponsors, and studies conducted in other forums.
13. **Share Workload** - Members of NTTG will share the study work. In general, members will study the areas where they have an interest. The results of the individual work will be shared with NTTG.

Footprint/Coordination

The core transmission planning footprint includes portions of the states of Idaho, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon and Nevada. Transmission plans will be coordinated with neighboring states and countries through:

1. **Interconnection Wide:** The Western Electric Coordinating Council's Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC) and the Planning Coordination Committee (PCC).
2. **Canada:** The Northwest Transmission Assessment Committee (NTAC);

3. **Washington and Oregon:** The Northwest Transmission Assessment Committee (NTAC) and Columbia Grid;
4. **California:** The California Independent System Operator and through direct contact with other California entities such as the California Department of Water Resources;
5. **Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico:** The members of WestConnect including the Colorado Coordinated Planning Group (CCPG), the Southwest Area Transmission Study (SWAT);
6. Other sub-regional planning groups in the western interconnection as may be formed.

Committee Operating Structure

Committee membership

The Planning Committee will be composed of three classes of members pursuant to the NTTG Planning Agreement:

1. Transmission providers and transmission developers engaged in or intending to engage in the sale of electric transmission service within the NTTG footprint – must be signatory of planning agreement (one official member per entity).
2. Transmission users engaged in the purchase of electric transmission service within the NTTG footprint, or other entities which have, or have the intention of entering into, an interconnection agreement with a transmission provider within the NTTG footprint – must be signatory of planning agreement (one official member per entity).
3. Regulators and other state agencies within the NTTG footprint that are interested in transmission development (one official member per agency). Membership submissions or changes shall be by letter to the Planning Committee Chair.

Committee Governance

As established in the Planning Agreement, the Planning Committee will elect a Chair from among the transmission providers and users that are a signatory of the Planning Agreement.

Committee Meetings

All meetings shall be conducted in compliance with Standards of Conduct, antitrust, confidentiality, and critical infrastructure requirements.

Each year there will be a minimum of two open stakeholder Planning Committee meetings held at specific milestone points as outlined in the Transmission Planning Cycle. The meetings will be called by the Chair. Meetings may be in person, teleconference, or webinar as required. Open stakeholder meeting agendas and meeting notices will be posted on the NTTG web site and provided at least

ten business days in advance. Presentations will be posted on the NTTG web site at least two business days in advance. Minutes will be taken and published on the NTTG and transmission providers' web site in accordance with the above requirements.

Additional meetings as required to conduct the business of the Planning Committee may be limited to Planning Committee members, working groups and study teams, or Transmission Providers as necessary.

Decision making

The Planning Committee will consist of three classes of members, as such classes are described above in "Committee Membership". Each eligible entity shall designate in writing a member to participate in its behalf on the Planning Committee. In addition to active participation in the Planning Committee, each duly-designated member or proxy will be entitled to vote on decisions brought before the Planning Committee as follows:

1. A quorum of voting members shall not be required. Those in attendance or responding when a decision is called for shall constitute the decision body for the Planning Committee. Members not planning to attend a noticed meeting shall notice all other Planning Committee members via electronic mail no later than one calendar day before a meeting of the Planning Committee if an alternate voting member will be designated to attend a meeting in their place. Proxy voting members shall be from the same entity as their designator. Proxy voting members, designated by a standing Planning Committee member, shall possess the same voting powers as their designee, at the Planning Committee meeting they are designated as an alternate to attend.
2. Each member shall cast their single vote within their membership class.
3. Within each membership class, a two-thirds majority of voting members shall be required for approval.
4. Approval by the transmission provider/developer class and at least one remaining member class shall be required for approval by the Planning Committee.
5. Disputes shall be subject to the dispute resolution process outlined in the Planning Agreement.

Budget

To enable and support the sub-regional planning process and requirements, the Planning Committee will develop a budget to pay for meeting facilitators, study contractors, and other expenses. The budget will be submitted to the NTTG Funding Committee for approval.

Comprehensive Transmission Plan

The planning group will biennially prepare a long-term (10 year) bulk transmission expansion plan, while taking into consideration up to a twenty year planning horizon. The plan will provide strategic transmission options (economic and reliability projects) and specific alternative plans for reinforcing the transmission system. The plan is also intended to help coordinate the integration of new generation into the system and to reduce transmission congestion. The work is intended to be completed primarily by the transmission owners in the footprint utilities with input from all interested stakeholders.

Specifically, the comprehensive transmission plan and/or planning process will:

1. Identify transmission needs of transmission customers (e.g., point-to-point, network, and retail native load), as they are identified and provided to the transmission provider. The transmission provider shall consolidate this information for their respective system to include in the sub-regional planning process.
 - a. Native load needs will be incorporated by input from the various integrated resource planning (IRP) processes where they exist. Network transmission customers will be asked to submit information on their projected loads and resources on a comparable basis (e.g., planning horizon and format). The intent will be to plan for all end-use loads on a comparable basis.
 - b. Each transmission provider's existing point-to-point customers will be asked to submit any projections they have of a need for service over the planning horizon and at what receipt and delivery points.
2. Identify transmission congestion that is an impediment to the efficient operation of electricity markets. Congestion on the existing and planned system will be reviewed and evaluated. In addition, the impacts on congestion of potential new generation facilities or new transmission projects will be considered. This will include production simulation studies on a sub-regional and regional level, and historical use analysis as provided by the Northern Tier Use Committee and TEPPC subcommittees.
3. Work with TEPPC to include the needs of other sub-regions and support WECC transmission planning.

Biennial Transmission Planning Cycle

The comprehensive transmission planning process will be comprised of the following milestone activities during an eight (8) quarter study cycle as outlined below:

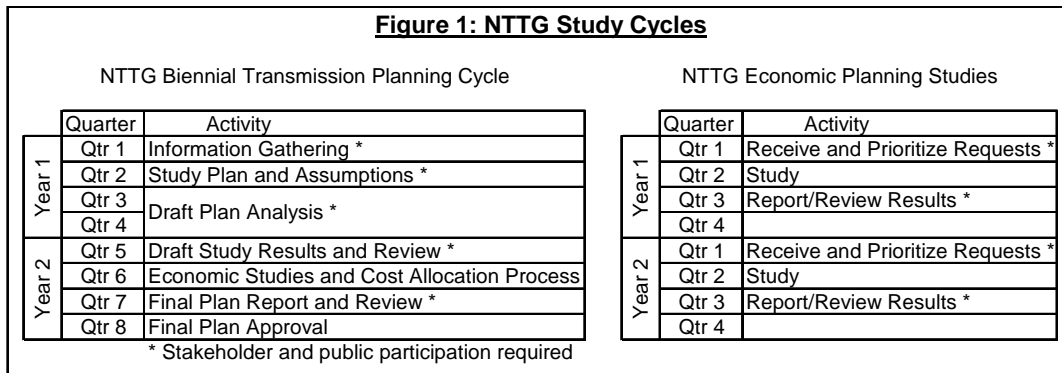
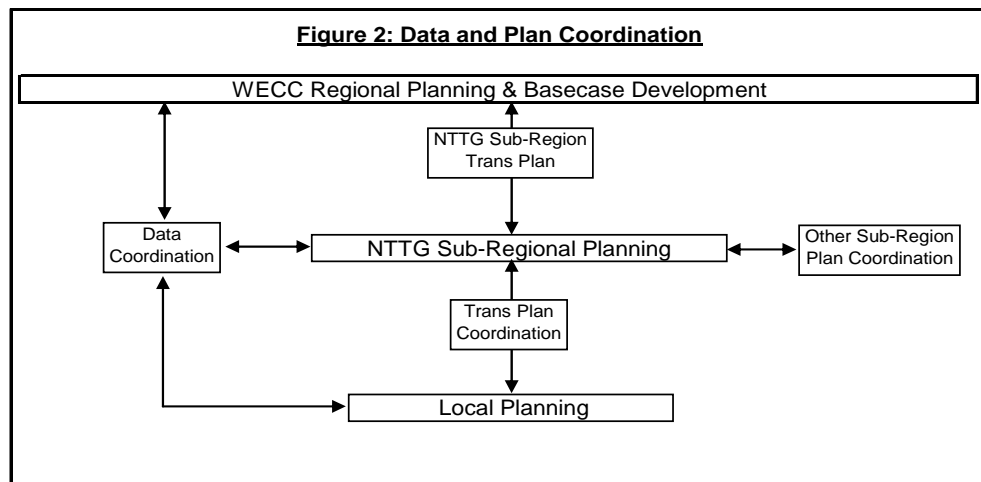


Figure 1 outlines the planning cycle timelines. The annual economic study cycle is integrated into the biennial planning cycle to provide input and assessment of the resulting transmission plan. This is best illustrated by remembering these are continuous processes. Consider Year 2 of each process. In Quarter 5 above, a draft plan and study results are reviewed. Part of the review and assessment of the draft transmission plan is the economic studies. The Qtr 6 economic studies shown in the biennial cycle are the same Year 2, Qtr 2 economic studies. Similarly, the final biennial plan produced in Qtr 8 establishes the baseline system for Year 1 economic studies in the next cycle which provide input into the next draft plan analysis in Qtr 3 and Qtr 4.

Quarter 1: Information gathering – The compilation of IRP and customer transmission use requests, historical use information, transmission provider plans, and other pertinent load and resource information including demand response for the planning horizon. Transmission Providers will supply information in accordance with their respective Order No. 890 Attachment K obligations. Due to uncertainty around potential resource development by type-location-timing, direct stakeholder input will be coordinated through an open process to ensure potential resource development zones are considered in addition to specific identified projects. Figure 2 below depicts data plan coordination linking the local, sub-regional, and regional processes.



Quarter 2: Study plan development and assumptions – The identification of the loads, resources, transmission requests, desired flows, constraints, etc. to be included and monitored during the study period. The methodology, criteria, assumptions, databases, and identification of the analysis tools will be established and posted for comment and direction by stakeholders and Planning Committee members.

Quarters 3 and 4: Draft plan analysis – The modeling of the system loads, resources, improvements, etc. to be considered. Technical screening studies using power flow analysis will be used to evaluate preliminary feasibility of and reliability of the system. Addition or modification of transmission elements considering past economic studies, and to meet performance and study criteria established in the study plan will be identified, resulting in a draft transmission plan for public and stakeholder comment.

Quarter 5: Draft study results – Stakeholder review and comment on the draft plan. The draft plan shall be made available for consideration in any local or regional study processes. Collection of economic study requests for consideration and determination of possible congestion and modification to the draft plan. Prioritization and selection of high priority economic studies by the NTTG Use Committee with stakeholder participation. Requested economic studies beyond the footprint or scope of NTTG shall be recommended for inclusion in the TEPPC process.

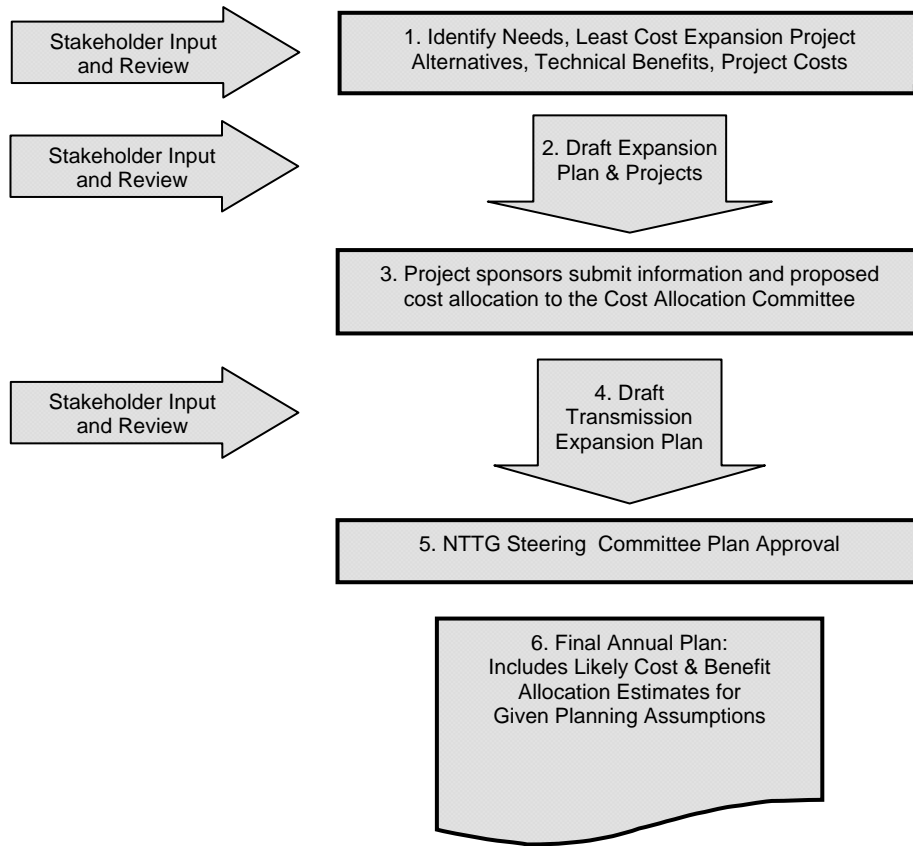
Quarter 6: Economic studies – Up to two (2) production cost simulation studies will be conducted evaluating potential congestion or economic improvements to the draft plan. Results and identified benefits will be documented and included in the cost allocation process. These are the same studies shown as the Year 2, Qtr 2 economic studies in Figure 1.

Quarter 7: Final plan report – Open stakeholder process for review and comment on the plan. The Planning Committee shall document and consider simultaneous feasibility of identified projects, cost allocation recommendations, and stakeholder comments.

Quarter 8: Final plan approval by NTTG Steering Committee – The final plan will be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval, completing the biennial process. The final plan shall be made available for consideration in any local or regional study processes.

The planning process outlined in Figure 3 is designed to provide transmission customers adequate information regarding congestion and transmission expansion alternatives thereby allowing appropriate Tariff service requests, and transparency in identifying future transmission expansion alternatives.

Figure 3: Biennial Transmission Planning Process



Project facilitation

After production of adequate transmission plans, the Planning Committee will facilitate project implementation via regional stakeholder notification and coordination. However, project participation agreements, financing, permitting, and construction are ultimately the responsibility of the individual project participants.

Confidentiality of data

All data supplied to the Planning Committee or subcommittees will be marked by the provider in accordance with the appropriate CEII document class (<http://www.ferc.gov/legal/ceii-foia/ceii/classes.asp>) and will be treated appropriately by all committee and subcommittee members.