

Interregional Coordination Meeting (ICM)

Phoenix, AZ
February 25, 2017

Review of key points, action items, assignments

- Interregional Transmission Project (ITP) proposals are due March 31, but can also be submitted earlier than that. Some proposers have indicated that they will submit an early draft for verification of sufficiency.
- Within the context of a suggestion that regions need to look “outward” more and have dialogues about emerging issues and needs around the interconnection, there are opportunities for coordination of activities. WestConnect intends to coordinate with CAISO on resource assumptions (and other data) to assess potential transmission impacts from 50% renewables levels and the RETI-2 process within the WestConnect footprint. Further, all regions ought to consider engaging in discussions on how to support the RETI-2 process.
- This meeting allowed for the identification and preliminary discussion of conceptual interregional solutions (projects or non-transmission alternatives) that may meet regional transmission needs in two or more regions more efficiently or cost effectively than local or regional solutions (per the provisions of the Interregional Coordination sections of the Tariffs). The ability to discuss conceptual interregional solutions was intended to provide a forum for stakeholders presenting such concepts to publicly discuss the concepts
 - Two conceptual proposals were briefly discussed during the meeting:
 1. NW Energy Coalition Proposal for consideration of an upgrade to the southern terminus of the Pacific DC Intertie. See the proposal at [link](#).
 2. SDG & E proposal to investigate increased wind generation levels and potential new transmission facilities for export of those resources in Montana, Oregon, New Mexico and Wyoming. See the proposal at [link](#).
 - Any interregional conceptual solutions that were identified at this meeting will be subject to consideration in the regional transmission planning processes of the Relevant Planning Regions if a proponent or sponsor submits the conceptual solution into the regional planning processes of all Relevant Planning Regions.
- The regions will continue to develop the interregional coordination process and provide additional documentation as they gain experience with the first set of ITPs expected to be submitted this year. To some extent ITPs are individually unique and may/will involve different sets of relevant regions. The regions were urged to keep an eye toward documentation of modifications and enhancements to the processes as they progress; i.e. what were the concerns and challenges and how were they resolved. There was also a suggestion to try to converge toward common words/phrases/definitions within the regions’ individual processes to provide better understanding of all the planning processes in the west.
- The next Annual Interregional Coordination meeting will be hosted by ColumbiaGrid on February 23, 2017.