

# **Interregional Transmission Planning Coordination Procedures**

## **Draft Decision Points – June 25, 2015 Stakeholder Conference Call**

The following draft decision points have been developed by the Western Planning Regions (WPR or Planning Regions) to present to stakeholders their current thinking on interregional transmission planning coordination procedures<sup>1</sup>. While written stakeholder comments from the February 26, 2015 stakeholder have been considered in developing this draft material, the Planning Regions are inviting discussion and seeking further input from stakeholders on our proposed decision points. Written comments on this material and the webinar are due July 9, 2015 and should be submitted to [regionaltransmission@caiso.com](mailto:regionaltransmission@caiso.com). All comments received will be considered by the Planning Regions in developing their final draft of the Interregional Transmission Planning Coordination Procedures (ITCP) which will be shared with stakeholders at the August 18, 2015 Interregional Order No. 1000 stakeholder meeting to be held in Denver, Colorado.

### **Purpose of the ITCP**

1. The Planning Regions will follow their established Tariff/Attachment K Regional Planning process to communicate and/or distribute regional reliability, economic and public policy assessments, project information, and its most recent regional transmission plan to the other Planning Regions for their review and comment;
2. The ITCP is the mechanism by which the Planning Regions will effect interregional coordination among themselves and with stakeholders;
3. The Planning Regions will follow the processes and procedures documented in the ITCP to review, update, and exchange data and information among themselves;

### **Interregional Coordination Process**

1. The Planning Regions will facilitate interregional coordination and collaboration through the WPR coordination group for the purpose of facilitating interregional coordination amongst themselves and with stakeholders at the Annual Meeting and other stakeholder meetings that may be scheduled from time to time. In particular, the WPR coordination group provides:

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<sup>1</sup> On June 1, 2015, the FERC issued a letter order accepting the CAISOs, NTTG Applicants' and WestConnect Applicants' Interregional Order No. 1000 compliance filings, with an effective date of October 1, 2015, as requested. ColumbiaGrid Applicants' compliance filings were accepted, with an effective date of January 1, 2015, as requested.

- 1.1. An objective of ensuring interregional Order No. 1000 compliance and facilitate interregional coordination amongst the Regions;
- 1.2. Functionally facilitating communication among Planning Region planning representatives on matters relating to technical information and data; coordination and selection of power flow base cases; facilitating information consistency among the draft study plans and transmission plans that are prepared by the Planning Regions through their regional transmission planning processes; and facilitating interregional coordination with stakeholders through the Annual Meeting and the coordination, as appropriate, of any joint evaluation studies that may be initiated by any two or more Relevant Planning Regions;
- 1.3. Attendance will be limited to representatives of the Planning Regions, unless there is agreement by the WPR coordination group to open the attendance to other invited guests directly involved with the interregional coordination efforts;
- 1.4. Meetings will be held on an “as needed” basis to ensure that the requirements identified in the ITCP are being met, to identify possible interregional transmission facilities that address transmission needs more efficiently or cost effectively than separate regional transmission facilities and to discuss;
  - 1.4.1. data and/or draft/updated/final regional study plans and to collaborate on information, material, proposals, or other items of mutual importance to be presented to stakeholders at the Annual Meeting ;
  - 1.4.2. the Planning Regions’ regional analysis and assessment results and share findings;
  - 1.4.3. and share draft regional plans; discuss draft or final ITP evaluations and benefits, received ITP data, preliminary determinations of ITP selection into the Planning Regions’ regional transmission plans, and any cost allocation study results;
- 1.5. Provide a forum for additional meetings to consider and coordinate technical and other matters related to an ITP joint evaluation or other considerations as dictated by the unique circumstances of each regional transmission plan;

## **Interregional Data Collection and Sharing**

1. The Planning Regions believe the most effective way to coordinate and exchange data is to ensure that power flow base cases and production cost model information used by the Planning Regions in their regional processes have undergone a coordinated process to make certain that the model representation of the planning regions is consistent among all power flow base cases and production cost model cases<sup>2</sup>. The Planning Regions will follow the base

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<sup>2</sup> Although not reflected in this document, the Planning Regions are in agreement that production cost data and information coordination and exchange procedures should be documented in the final draft of the ITCP.

case review processes and procedures documented in this ITCP to jointly review model information in all regional power flow base cases or power flow reference base cases that will be utilized by themselves in their regional planning processes and studies;

- 1.1. The Planning Regions will continue to participate in and support the existing data collection and power flow base case development processes currently in place at WECC;
- 1.2. To the extent that there may be additional information or data that is relevant to the Planning Regions, the WPR coordination group will facilitate interregional data collection and sharing among the Planning Regions;
- 1.3. Once data or information becomes available or data or information is required within a Planning Region, the Planning Region will notify the other Planning Regions through the WPR coordination group that all Planning Regions data and/or information is either available or is needed. If a response from the other Planning Regions is needed, the Planning Region requesting the response must notify the other Planning Regions that a written response is required and provide an appropriate time frame for a response to be provided;
- 1.4. Planning Regions who receive a response request are required to respond to the request within the time frame provided for by the requestor. Responses should be provided through the WPR coordination group to ensure all Planning Regions are aware of the information being exchanged;
- 1.5. The Planning Regions will follow their regional processes to provide information and data to their stakeholders and to WECC;
- 1.6. As appropriate, data and information requests and responses will be discussed at the WPR coordination group meetings. The WPR coordination group will report on the data and information requests and responses at the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting.

## **Base Case Development and Coordination**

1. Commensurate with their tariffs, the Planning Regions will exchange planning data and information among themselves at least annually. The Planning Regions believe an efficient way to facilitate this planning data and information exchange is through a power flow base case data and information coordination process. This process will ensure that the base cases used by each Planning Region will include accurate and up-to-date planning data and information from the other Planning Regions' systems.

The Planning Regions will implement interregional coordination of their planning data and information through joint identification and agreement on a set of available/approved WECC power flow base case(s) to be used as the starting point to develop their own regional planning cases. Each Planning Region will review this set of WECC base case(s) and

develop change files for the corresponding WECC power flow base case(s) to represent the current electrical transmission system topology, loads and resources, and appropriate projected transmission system development plans for that Planning Region. These change files will be made available to the other Planning Regions through the WPR coordination group. Each Planning Region will use these change files to incorporate, as appropriate, the corrected electrical data and models of proposed transmission expansion projects into the power flow base cases developed for their regional planning processes.

- 1.1. At the beginning of every regional planning cycle the WPR coordination group will ensure that the Planning Regions identify and select an agreed upon number of WECC power flow base case(s) that are needed for each of the Planning Regions to perform their respective regional planning assessments. For example, the Planning Regions may determine a number of WECC base cases (year 5 and year 10 summer peak, winter peak, spring, etc.) as the starting point;
- 1.2. Each Planning Region will evaluate the selected WECC power flow base case(s) and identify, for that base case, additional improvements of network topology and other modeling issues relevant to its region;
- 1.3. Through interregional coordination certain data will be collected and shared among the Planning Regions. Each Planning Region will provide corrected/updated electrical models for transmission facilities (230 kV and above) that have interregional significance in the form of change files (epc, raw, or aux files, etc.);
- 1.4. In addition, each Planning Region will provide change files (power flow model data) for proposed transmission expansion projects that could have interregional significance along with expected commercial operation dates associated with the projects;
- 1.5. Each Planning Region will review the electrical representation updates and transmission development plans provided by the other regions and modify their respective regional power flow base cases, as appropriate, for performing regional planning studies;
- 1.6. The Planning Regions will post their regional base cases on their websites consistent with the procedures for CEII data collection and sharing;

## **Interregional Information Exchange**

1. Each Planning Region will review the study plans, regional reliability, economic and public policy assessments, project information, and the most recent regional transmission plans provided by the other Planning Region's and respond to the region that submitted the information in a manner that is consistent with the process established in this ITCP;
  - 1.1. Each Planning Region should seek input from or provide information to the other Planning Regions through the WPR coordination group at the same time they are seeking input from or providing information to their own stakeholders to ensure that all

Planning Regions are aware that information is either available or is needed. This includes but is not limited to draft and final study plans, assessment reports, and regional transmission plans;

- 1.2. If a response from the other Planning Regions is requested, the Planning Region requesting the response must notify the other Planning Regions that a written response is required and provide an appropriate time frame for a response to be provided;
- 1.3. Planning Regions who receive a response request are required to respond to the request within the time frame provided for by the requestor. Responses should be provided through the WPR coordination group to ensure that all Planning Regions are aware of the information being exchanged;
- 1.4. Study plans, assessment reports, and regional transmission plans may be discussed at the WPR coordination group meetings and reported on at the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting;

### **Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting**

1. The Planning Regions will hold one interregional coordination stakeholder meeting no later than March 31 of each year to provide stakeholders an opportunity to consider and discuss information developed by the Planning Regions during the previous year. Additional interregional coordination stakeholder meetings may be held during any given year at the discretion of the Planning Regions;
  - 1.1. Planning regions will rotate hosting the Annual Meeting;
  - 1.2. Annual meeting notification should be issued no later than 45 calendar days prior to the meeting date
  - 1.3. Meeting materials should be posted no later than 7 calendar days prior to the Annual Interregional Coordination Stakeholder Meeting date;
  - 1.4. Notes from the Annual Interregional Coordination Stakeholder Meeting will not be provided;
  - 1.5. Comments from stakeholders should be provided no later than 14 calendar days after the meeting has been adjourned. The WPR coordination group will collect and ensure all comments are posted on each of the Planning Regions' websites consistent with their regional planning processes;

### **Additional Stakeholder Meetings**

1. Additional stakeholder meetings may be scheduled as needed;
  - 1.1. Additional stakeholder meeting will be hosted by the planning region requiring the meeting;

- 1.2. Posting and comment procedures will be the same as for the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting;

## **Procedures for ITP Identification**

1. When two or more Relevant Planning Regions identify a beneficial potential ITP, the Relevant Planning Regions will follow the procedures for ITP identification, coordination, and joint evaluation documented in this ITCP to assess the ITP and its impact on the Western Interconnection;
2. There are two opportunities for a potential ITP to be proposed or identified.
  - 2.1. A stakeholder may propose an ITP by submitting the ITP for study into each Planning Region's regional planning process to which the ITP will electrically connect (hereafter called Relevant Planning Regions). See ITP Submission section in the Joint Evaluation below for further discussion;
  - 2.2. During the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting or during Planning Regions' regional plan coordination meetings (both described above) a potential ITP may be identified, including identification of conceptual solution(s) that may meet regional transmission needs in two or more Planning Regions more efficiently or cost effectively than transmission projects in an individual Planning Region's regional transmission plan. Once a proposed or potential ITP has been identified, the ITP Joint Evaluation Procedure (described below) will be used to evaluate the ITP through the Relevant Planning Regions' regional transmission planning processes;

## **Procedures for ITP Coordination**

1. The coordination of the Planning Regions' regional plans in the context of interregional coordination includes both the harmonization of planning data and reviewing the Planning Regions' regional transmission plans;
  - 1.1. An element of the ITCP is to harmonize certain relevant regional planning data and assumptions (e.g., transmission topology, load and resource assumptions, generation dispatch, and production costs assumptions such as gas prices, load shape, hydro generation assumptions or other assumptions that were developed by each region);
  - 1.2. This harmonized data may result in a common set of assumptions to develop a regional reference case(s) (i.e., power flow or production cost base cases) that can be used by each Planning Region as part of its regional planning process to assess an ITP. Study results from this Reference case(s) may be shared with the other Planning Regions;
  - 1.3. The common set of assumptions and the regional reference case(s) will be provided to WECC;

2. Another element of the interregional coordination of the Planning Region's transmission plans is to undertake a broader review of the Regional Plans than may have been afforded in the individual regional processes and confer on whether or not there is a more efficient or cost effective ITP than the regional solutions that are determined by the individual Planning Regions;
  - 2.1. By the end of the second quarter and before completion of the Planning Regions' study plans, the four Planning Regions will discuss whether or not a potential ITP may be more efficient or cost effective than the regional transmission projects within the Planning Regions regional transmission plans. The Planning Regions may meet amongst themselves for this review or the Planning Regions may choose to have this discussion with stakeholders during the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting. Regardless of this choice, during the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting stakeholders will have the opportunity to engage in preliminary discussion of interregional solutions, including conceptual solution(s) that may meet regional transmission needs in each of two or more Planning Regions more efficiently or cost effectively than the regional transmission solutions. This review may include technical analysis or professional judgment to determine if an ITP alternative might be more efficient or cost effective than the proposed projects in each Planning Region;
  - 2.2. This review of the Planning Regions' regional plans should focus on interregional transmission projects with the purposes of identifying the potential to a) combine projects with similar scope, b) eliminating or downsizing projects that may not be needed due to the development of other projects, or c) proposing a new interregional project that might replace the needs of multiple projects;
  - 2.3. If it is determined that a potential ITP may be a more efficient or cost effective solution than a regional project in the Planning Regions' regional transmission plans, then the Procedures for ITP Joint Evaluation (described below) will be used to evaluate the ITP in accordance with the Relevant Planning Regions' regional transmission planning processes.

### **Procedures for ITP Joint Evaluation**

1. Once a proposed ITP has been identified, the Planning Regions will utilize the joint evaluation procedure to evaluate the proposed ITP through the Relevant Planning Regions' regional transmission planning processes as identified below;
  - 1.1. The decision to include or not include an ITP in a Planning Region's regional transmission plan will be made by each Planning Region in accordance with the Planning Region's regional planning process;
  - 1.2. A proponent of an ITP must submit its ITP data to each Planning Region with which the ITP will interconnect electrically. An ITP submittal must follow each Relevant Planning Region's transmission planning process requirements. Each Relevant Planning Region

will determine if ITP data is properly submitted in accordance with its regional transmission planning process and meets the criteria in Section ???. However, ColumbiaGrid will, as a minimum, accept ITP submittals in the first quarter of even numbered years

- 1.3. The Planning Regions will define the common assumptions relevant to the ITP proposal and, if possible, develop a regional reference case(s) for assessing the ITP. This regional reference case may be one of the WECC power flow bases cases identified as part of the Base Case Development Process or some other power flow base case as agreed upon by the Relevant Planning Regions. All Planning Regions will review the regional reference case(s) and provide to the Relevant Planning Regions change files to update the regional reference case(s) to represent the current electrical transmission system topology, loads and resources, and appropriate projected transmission system development plans for that Planning Region;
- 1.4. Each Relevant Planning Region will, for each ITP that has been properly submitted, participate in a joint evaluation of the ITP with all other Relevant Planning Regions. This joint evaluation will commence with an initial joint evaluation meeting that will be held in a timeframe that is commensurate with the regional processes of all Relevant Planning Regions but no later than ???? of that calendar year;
- 1.5. During the initial joint evaluation meeting the Relevant Planning Regions will form a joint evaluation study team and determine a host Relevant Planning Region to lead the joint evaluation study team. The purpose of the joint evaluation study team will be to discuss the ITP data, determine projected costs, develop study assumptions and determine methodologies that will be used pursuant to each Relevant Planning Region's regional transmission planning process. Each Relevant Planning Region will follow its regional planning process to assess the proposed ITP;
- 1.6. The predominate focus of the technical studies performed by each Relevant Planning Region will be for the portion of the ITP within that Planning Regions' footprint; however, the Planning Region will monitor and report study results from or to the other Relevant Planning Regions as appropriate;
- 1.7. The joint evaluation study team process will coordinate study efforts among the Relevant Planning Regions, Planning Regions, and stakeholders in three ways:
  - 1.7.1. The joint evaluation study team. Coordination among the Relevant Planning Regions will require an open discussion about all data (including CEII data); as such, these meetings are closed to stakeholders;
  - 1.7.2. Through open interregional stakeholder meetings such as the Annual Interregional Coordination Meetings, additional stakeholder meetings and other interregional coordination meetings established by the Relevant Planning Regions and/or the four Planning Regions;



- 1.7.3. Through each Planning Region's open stakeholder meetings in accordance its regional transmission planning process;
- 1.8. During and after the initial joint evaluation meeting the Relevant Planning Regions will complete the following steps for each ITP;
  - 1.8.1. Each Relevant Planning Region will follow its regional planning process to assess the proposed ITP. These studies should be informed, in part, by experiences in prior planning cycles and the availability of new transmission study tools;
  - 1.8.2. The Relevant Planning Regions will seek to resolve any differences between the Relevant Planning Regions that may affect a Relevant Planning Region's evaluation of the ITP. For example, a Relevant Planning Region may forecast different construction costs for the ITP within its footprint even though the terrain and environmental factors are similar to other Relevant Planning Regions. If the cost differences cannot be resolved, the Relevant Planning Regions may agree on a "neutral" methodology to resolve the differences (e.g., perhaps rely on the TEPPC capital cost calculator or a third party independent consultant's costs);
  - 1.8.3. Each Relevant Planning Region will provide stakeholders an opportunity to participate in accordance with its regional planning process. Also, during the course of the joint evaluation study analysis the Relevant Planning Regions will participate in all appropriate interregional coordination meetings (e.g., the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting and, if necessary, other additional interregional coordination meetings) to update stakeholders on the status of the ITP evaluation and if appropriate, to seek stakeholder input;
  - 1.8.4. Each Relevant Planning Region will notify the other Relevant Planning Regions if it determines that the ITP will not meet any of its regional transmission criteria or identified regional transmission needs;
  - 1.8.5. Each Relevant Planning Region will determine if the proposed ITP is a more cost effective or efficient solution to one or more of its regional transmission needs;
- 1.9. For each ITP, each Relevant Planning Regions will notify stakeholders of upcoming stakeholder meetings in accordance to their regional transmission planning process. During Q3-Q4 of the biennial planning cycle:
  - 1.9.1. Each Relevant Planning Region will conduct a regional needs analysis of the ITP using its regional transmission planning process. Following this Q3-4 analysis, the CAISO publishes a final transmission plan; ColumbiaGrid publishes a Biennial Plan or an updated Biennial Plan; NTTG generates a draft transmission plan; and WestConnect identifies regional needs. . The draft and final

transmission plans will be shared with stakeholders within the regions transmission planning process;

- 1.9.2. When an ITP has requested Interregional Cost Allocation, the Relevant Planning Regions will produce an initial determination of ITP benefits and share this determination, including regional ITP benefits and regional cost assignments, among the Relevant Planning Regions. The Relevant Planning Regions may share these plans and benefits determinations with stakeholders during the Q5 Annual Meeting or other interregional coordination meetings;

1.10. During Q6-8 of the biennial planning cycle:

- 1.10.1. Each Planning Region will incorporate information from other Planning Regions into its study plan and proceed to complete its transmission plan, including a determination whether or not the ITP is more cost effective or efficient than other projects in its regional transmission planning process. This analysis includes an initial regional cost allocation that will be provided to the other Relevant Planning Regions;
- 1.10.2. If all Relevant Planning Regions select the ITP in their respective regional transmission plans for purposes of cost allocation, then each Relevant Planning Region will finalize its cost allocation and regional transmission plans;
- 1.10.3. If at least two, but not all Relevant Planning Regions select the ITP in their regional transmission plans, then each of those Relevant Planning Regions will re-study its Cost allocation determinations and revise its transmission plan if appropriate. This round-robin effort will continue until at least two Relevant Planning Region remain, and will terminate if less than two Relevant Planning Region remain. Completion of this round robin process may continue into the next planning cycle;

- 1.11. At the end of the biennial interregional planning process, during Q8-Q9, each Planning Region will publish its Final Transmission Plan, ITP evaluation and determination of benefits

### **ITCP Update and Change Process**

1. The Planning Regions will, through the WPR coordination group, periodically revise the ITCP to reflect changes in the planning processes and procedures. Revisions will be processed pursuant to the ITCP Change Process attached to the ITCP.