



NTTG Transmission Use Prioritization Process

1. Transmission providers will solicit proposals for economic congestion studies, as defined in each Transmission Providers' Attachment K, starting in January through February of each year, per the mechanism outlined in the approved NTTG protocol and the transmission providers' Attachment K of their Open Access Transmission Tariff.
2. Transmission providers will categorize study requests into (1) local and (2) sub-regional and (3) regional footprint projects. Sub-regional request are requests that will require modeling only within the NTTG footprint, and regional requests are requests that will require modeling for the WECC region.
3. Transmission providers will prioritize the local study requests per their local process and commit to producing up to two prioritized local studies per Attachment K.
4. Transmission providers will provide their prioritized list, including their studies, to the NTTG Transmission Use Group by the first week of March of each year.
5. The Transmission Use Committee will review the study requests and categorize the remaining un-committed projects as either: (1) local studies independent of one another, (2) local studies that can be clustered to represent a sub-regional request, (3) sub-regional or (4) regional by March 15 of each year.
6. The Transmission Use Committee will notify Northern Tier stakeholders via electronic mail on the clustering of local studies that can be grouped as sub-regional by March 15 of each year.
7. In a public meeting the Transmission Use Committee will present the categorized list of study requests and the clustering recommendation outlined in Step 5 by March 31 of each year.
8. Stakeholders present in person at the public meeting in Step 7 will vote according to classes, with each vote having equal weight and only one vote coming from each organization represented at the meeting. The classes are as follows:
 - a. Transmission Provider side of public utilities
 - b. Transmission Customers, including the merchant arms of public utilities
 - c. Others (advocacy groups, state agencies, etc)

9. At the public meeting, each stakeholder will vote once for their preferred study and once for their secondary choice of study. The study choices for voting and prioritization will include study requests identified as sub-regional or local studies that can be clustered to represent a sub-regional request.
10. The top two study requests in the NTTG footprint will be prioritized based on the most votes received. For ties between the top two and other projects, a separate vote of the only the tied projects shall occur. If the tie is not broken in this separate vote, the Transmission Use Committee chair will vote on the study request.