

DRAFT

**ColumbiaGrid Involvement in Regional and Sub-regional Planning –
Proposed Strawman Language¹**

ColumbiaGrid, a sub-regional planning group (SPG), and its members are all members in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) and use this as the primary forum for coordinating regional transmission system plans with other SPG's and other stakeholders. As set forth in the WECC bylaw, WECC is responsible for:

1. Coordinating and promoting electric system reliability,
2. Supporting efficient competitive power markets,
3. Assuring open and non-discriminatory transmission access among members,
4. Providing a forum for resolving transmission access disputes, and
5. Providing an environment for coordinating the operating and planning activities of its members in the Western Interconnection encompassing the bulk interconnected systems of the West.

The activities of WECC pertaining to regional transmission planning are carried out in WECC's Planning Coordination committee (PCC) and Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC). Members of WECC, through committee participation, direct and perform the WECC regional planning process, economic study process, annual study program, and the other processes that prepare coordinated data, planning criteria, complete studies, and develop base cases and assumptions.

WECC Planning Coordination Committee

PCC's responsibilities carried out via its sub-committees and working groups are to:

1. Recommend criteria for the guidance of the members, subject to Board of Trustees approval, for adequacy of power supply and for such elements of system design as affect the reliability of the interconnected bulk power systems.

¹ This language was prepared by ColumbiaGrid in collaboration with NTTG. It has not yet been agreed to by the individual Transmission Providers who have Attachment K filing responsibilities. It is a work in progress and subject to change. If adopted by a Transmission Provider, in whole or in part, it may be included in its transmittal letter rather than its Attachment K.

2. Accumulate necessary data and perform regional studies of the operation of the interconnected systems necessary to determine the reliability of the western regional bulk power network.
3. Evaluate proposed additions or alterations in facilities in relation to established reliability criteria.
4. Identify the types and investigate the impact of delay on the timing and availability of power generation and transmission facilities.
5. Review reports and recommendations prepared by subcommittees and others concerning reliability and adequacy of power supply and forward same with comments and/or recommendations to the Board of Directors in a timely manner.
6. Prepare appropriate reports and maps of planning information for governmental regulatory agencies, reliability councils, and others as required.

PCC's three main sub-committees are the Technical Studies Subcommittee, the Loads and Resources Subcommittee, and the Reliability Subcommittee. The responsibilities of each subcommittee are described below.

WECC Technical Studies Subcommittee (TSS):

- Coordinate and compile a ten year bank of system power flow base cases and associated data.
- Conduct an annual assessment of near term and longer system technical performance via the WECC Annual Study Program.
- Validate and verify study technical models and methods

WECC Loads and Resources Subcommittee (LRS):

- Prepares and manages WECC's load and resource data collection and develops approaches that will promote compilation of loads and resources data that is clear, comprehensive, and reliable.
- Develops meaningful bases for assessing resource adequacy (capacity and energy).
- Prepares WECC's power supply assessment which addresses resource adequacy.
- Recommends resource adequacy guidelines/targets to the Planning Coordination Committee for the power supply assessment.

WECC Reliability Subcommittee (RS):

- Develops and recommends reliability criteria for the Western Interconnection.

The PCC and its sub-committees also oversee the WECC Project Rating Process which is part of the WECC Regional Planning Project Review, Project Rating Review, and Progress Report Procedures. The goals of the rating process are to ensure that new projects are integrated into the existing system with a rating while recognizing the protected ratings of other facilities. The rating process:

- Provides procedures for WECC members and others to report on planned projects and to work together to expand the interconnected system capacity according to member and stakeholder needs;
- Provides the policies and procedures for notification and reliability assessment requirements related to projects planned within the WECC electric system;
- Provides agreed upon methods applicable to rating of transmission facilities;
- Helps ensure the reliable and coordinated integration of existing and new projects such that the use of the system is maximized for all participants.

This is known as the Three Phase Rating Process in which project sponsors coordinate joint study teams of interested parties, perform studies of the impact of their project on the system, prepare Progress reports, then recommend and seek approval of ratings for their project. Any WECC members can participate in the Project Review Groups.

WECC Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC)

WECC TEPPC responsibilities include three main functions:

- Overseeing economic database management. This database is available to the public and is used by TEPPC for congestion studies. It utilizes publicly available information for expansion plans (such as state Integrated Resource Plans) and economic inputs from publicly available sources in order to avoid confidentiality issues regarding data transparency. ColumbiaGrid and its members can use this database to evaluate the economic benefit of transmission projects.
- Providing policy direction and management of the economic transmission planning process.
- Guiding the analyses and modeling for Western Interconnection economic transmission expansion planning.

TEPPC is a balanced committee made up of one representative from each SPG, a PUC representative, State or Provincial Energy Department representative, a Transmission Owner, a LSE, a generator representative, a consumer representative, an IRP expert representative, a wholesale market expert, and an environmental representative. As an SPG, ColumbiaGrid is a member of TEPPC. TEPPC governs the work of its Sub-committee (TAS) and work groups. The Technical Advisory Sub-committee (TAS) is an open committee for any and all interested parties and its workgroups prepare and maintain the economic study data base and annual economic study program. They prioritize economic study requests and other requests coming from the WECC board using criteria listed in the TEPPC Protocol during the annual study cycle. TEPPC completes a variety of activities, including:

1. Collecting, identifying and consolidating desired economic studies from TPs, SPGs, and other parties
2. Prioritization of economic studies
3. Performing high priority economic studies
4. Coordinating a time line, request window, and mileposts such that the transmission planning study activities of each sub-regional planning group are synchronized the TEPPC study cycle.
5. Supporting a single repository of all system expansion reports and information for the entire Western Interconnection (in progress).
6. Coordinating the sharing of information and assumptions for planning studies and efforts between each SPG.
7. Supporting sub-regional planning groups and Interconnection-wide planning.
8. Collaborating with each other to the greatest extent possible.
9. Where appropriate, in coordination with WECC TEPPC and other sub-regional planning groups, develop coordinated transmission studies and plans.

WECC TEPPC's Transmission Planning Protocol is available on the ColumbiaGrid website at:
[http://www.columbiagrid.org/client/TEPPC-Planning-Protocol_V1-3\(Clean\).pdf](http://www.columbiagrid.org/client/TEPPC-Planning-Protocol_V1-3(Clean).pdf)

PCC performs what is known as the WECC Regional Planning Project Review process. This is a process intended to inform others of the opportunity to participate in or review a new project, and to solicit participation. It is intended to avoid duplicate projects and allow a new project to integrate others needs by mutual agreement. Project sponsors go through the WECC Regional Planning Project Review process checklist before entering the Three Phase Rating process to insure they have publically announced, allowed for participation by others interested, and coordinated with other potential projects of a similar nature.

As part of the Regional Planning Process, the TEPPC economic study program and SPG economic study planning cycle coordination process is intended in part to provide project screening studies early in the Regional Planning Project Review process, and economic and congestion information useful in the conception of new transmission projects in the Western Interconnection. TEPPC economic studies identify potential congestion on the base system and potential congestion reduction from the addition of transmission expansion. TEPPC, as guided by their open stakeholder process, provides information to SPGs, customers, interested stakeholders, and project sponsors.

Additional SPG Coordination:

ColumbiaGrid coordinates plans, data, planning assumptions and criteria with other neighboring sub-regional planning groups directly or through joint study teams for projects and studies that involve two or more SPGs. In addition, ColumbiaGrid coordinates through regular joint SPG meetings (three times yearly) to review study status, to agree on WECC base case assumptions and requests, and to coordinate requests to TEPPC for economic studies.