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NTTG Project Submission Process and Guidelines

When developing a transmission project, a project has the option of taking that project to the NTTG to facilitate their regional planning efforts and to receive concurrence from NTTG that their project is an appropriate addition given the overall transmission needs for the NTTG area. By bringing a project to NTTG, a project sponsor may also be able to fulfill the requirements of the WECC Regional Planning process.

To initiate the NTTG process,

1. The project proponent submits a project description to the NTTG Planning Group Chair and requests time on the agenda of a NTTG Planning group meeting.
2. The NTTG Planning Group chair includes the project on the agenda for the next available NTTG Planning Group meeting.
3. The Project proponent presents their project to the NTTG, explains how their project meets all of the principles listed in the WECC Regional Planning Process (attached), and responds to questions.
4. Once the project sponsor has addressed all of the issues raised, the NTTG Planning Group discusses the project and develops a consensus concerning whether the project should receive endorsement by NTTG. If there is a clear consensus supporting the project, then the project will be deemed endorsed by NTTG. If there are dissenting opinions, then the project will be elevated to the NTTG Steering Committee to determine whether or not the project should receive NTTG endorsement.
5. Each project brought to the NTTG will also be addressed in the next NTTG annual expansion plan either through inclusion in the base cases or via a focused scenario. In addition to these sponsored projects, the NTTG may develop their own projects although it is recognized that, absent a sponsor, the project may not be able to move forward into implementation.

The NTTG process is limited to regional planning issues. Detailed technical issues surrounding the project will be addressed in the WECC project review and rating processes. Similarly, routing and environmental issues will be addressed outside of NTTG process by the project sponsor in the permitting processes.

Attachment 1

Excerpts from the WECC document entitled:
“OVERVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR REGIONAL
PLANNING PROJECT REVIEW, PROJECT RATING REVIEW, AND
PROGRESS REPORTS”

The WECC Regional Planning Project Review

The Regional Planning Review Process encompasses the initial development phase of a project in which regional interest is expressed. The Process addresses how transmission project sponsors should work and interact with other parties when developing a project that has or may have a significant regional benefit or impact. Through this process, WECC members cooperate to identify transmission expansion projects that may be beneficial to the region. By following this process, project sponsors may also address certain issues related to regulatory approval of their projects. The Regional Planning Review Process should begin as soon as possible and involve all interested project participants. Although it will vary, this phase of the process should start when interested project participants are devising their individual and collective transmission needs. This phase is completed when PCC has made a final determination regarding the project's conformity with the WECC Regional Planning Guidelines.

Introduction and Purpose

This Process identifies how transmission project sponsors should work and interact with their peers when developing a transmission project in which regional interest is expressed. The purpose of the Regional Planning Review Process is to:

- 1 Foster the development of a broad regional or subregional planning perspective among all stakeholders in the planning process;
- 2 Promote and encourage a more efficient use and development of the region's or subregion's existing and future facilities to enhance interconnected system operation;
- 3 Ensure that all relevant regional or subregional planning issues are considered during the planning of transmission projects with regional or subregional significance;
- 4 Provide procedures and guidelines for coordinated regional and subregional planning;
- 5 Involve Member Representatives, member executives, regulators, existing planning bodies, environmental groups, land use groups, and other non-utility interest groups in the process;
- 6 Allow stakeholders to identify opportunities for improved regional transmission efficiencies and make recommendations to achieve them;
- 7 Provide a voluntary dispute resolution procedure.

The Planning Coordination Committee (PCC) has the responsibility for oversight and review of the Regional Planning Review Process.

Regional Planning Guidelines

The Regional Planning Project Report, prepared by the project sponsor, will describe how the project sponsor addresses the following guidelines;

- 1 Take multiple project needs and plans into account, including identified utilities' and nonutilities' future needs, environmental and other stakeholder interests;
- 2 Cooperate with others to look beyond specific end points of the sponsors' project to identify broader regional and subregional needs or opportunities;
- 3 Address the efficient use of transmission corridors (e.g., rights-of-ways, new projects, optimal line voltage, upgrades, etc.);
- 4 Identify and show how the project improves efficient use of, or impacts existing and planned resources of the region (e.g., benefits and impacts, transmission constraint mitigation);
- 5 Cooperate with Regional Planning Review Group members in determining the benefits and impacts due to the project;
- 6 Identify transmission physical and operational constraints resulting from the project or that are removed by the project;
- 7 Coordinate project plans with and seek input from all interested members, subregional planning groups, power pools, and region-wide planning group(s);
- 8 Coordinate project plans with and seek input from other stakeholders including utilities, independent power producers, environmental and land use groups, regulators, and other stakeholders that may have an interest;
- 9 Review the possibility of using the existing system, upgrades or reasonable alternatives to the project to meet the need (including non-transmission alternatives where appropriate);
- 10 Indicate that the sponsor's evaluation of the project has taken into account costs and benefits of the project compared with reasonable alternatives;
- 11 Coordinate with potentially parallel or competing projects and consolidate projects where practicable.

WECC Regional Planning Project Review Process

Initiating the Process

Sponsors of a project should start the Regional Planning Project Review Process when a project is in the conceptual level of project development. At the earliest possible time, the project sponsor should notify PCC and TSS members of their desire to initiate the Regional Planning Project Review Process. Notifications should be made prior to submittal of project data for the WECC "Existing Generation and Significant Additions and Changes to System Facilities" (Significant Additions) report. The sponsors of a project shall notify the PCC of the purpose of the project.

The process may also be initiated by PCC determining that regional interest has been expressed or at the request of a member. PCC will maintain a list of projects under

consideration by members that are not yet reported in the Significant Additions report so that PCC may determine if regional interest has been expressed.

Upon initiation of the review process, the project sponsor shall invite members to join a Regional Planning Review Group. A project sponsor will form a Regional Planning Review Group when other members indicate interest in participating in or reviewing a project. The purpose of the Regional Planning Review Group is to identify opportunities to incorporate multiple interests and multiple needs into a single project.

During the Process

The project sponsor, in coordination with the Regional Planning Review Group, will prepare a Regional Planning Project Report indicating how the project conforms or plans to conform to each of the Regional Planning Guidelines. In reviewing proposed projects relative to the Regional Planning Guidelines, the PCC members, through the Regional Planning Review Group may request that project sponsors perform additional studies or provide their own studies to the Regional Planning Review Group and may recommend the evaluation of alternatives or options that may provide greater regional benefits. Performances of the analyses and responses to PCC requests for information will remain the responsibility of the sponsors. The sponsor shall submit this report to PCC and TSS.

Completing the Process

At the conclusion of the Regional Planning Review Group's work, the project sponsor will prepare a Regional Planning Project Report to document that it has completed the WECC Regional Planning Project Review Process and met the Guidelines of this Process.

The project sponsor will submit the Regional Planning Project Report to PCC for 30-day review and comment on the conformity with the Regional Planning Guidelines. When comments from this review are addressed, the PCC Chair will notify the Project Sponsor, PCC, and TSS of the completion of the Regional Planning Project Review for the project.