

Proposal for developing regional transmission adequacy standards

Background

On September 28th, 2004, BPA issued a draft discussion paper titled “Transmission Adequacy Standards: Planning for the future.” BPA issued this paper to initiate a regional effort to develop transmission adequacy standards. Developing adequacy standards will establish the criteria by which BPA can determine how much transmission it needs, ascertain the appropriate solutions to be deployed, and guide prudent future investment decisions consistent with BPA’s obligations. The original proposal was to develop BPA standards with regional input.

In response to the paper, several utilities, power marketers and other BPA customers and constituents submitted comments for our consideration. It is after consideration of these public comments and further deliberation that BPA would like to submit to the region the following proposal for developing transmission adequacy standards.

Public Comments on Transmission Adequacy Standards

Since the publication of the draft discussion paper, BPA has received a number of valuable comments and has created a public website¹ where these comments are available. A number of responses received during the open comment period were favorable to the proposed concept and BPA efforts. However, some of the comments required further consideration and a shift in the original plan proposed by BPA:

1. Participation and Scope – There was a general consensus that the efforts should be open to the region and refocused on developing standards for the entire Northwest Interconnected Area² rather than just the BPA control area. It was recommended that this effort be placed under the Northwest Power Pool (NWPP) to ensure consistency in development and application of these standards.
2. Coordinating resource adequacy and transmission adequacy – BPA recognizes that there is an important link between the two and would ensure that the regional process for developing transmission adequacy standards is coordinated with the ongoing regional efforts for developing resource adequacy standards.³
3. Building a foundation for the future – This process does not intend to propose that this effort in anyway undermines or substitutes the efforts of Grid West. Due to the timing issue and with increasing limitations on its borrowing authority and more

¹ <http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/transadequacy/>

² The Northwest Interconnected Area is defined by the NWPP and includes the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, Western Montana, parts of Nevada and the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

³ Power & Conservation Council – Power Supply Adequacy Forum (I put the regional forum. Do we need to include Resource Adequacy Workgroup under WECC reliability subcommittee efforts also)

pressure from within the region to build the right capital additions, BPA must develop a strong foundation now or in the very near future. However, BPA feels that placing these efforts under the NWPP ensures that whatever is developed will take into consideration the work of other regional transmission efforts such as Grid West. BPA understands that while development of the standards can use existing resources such as the NWPP, regional implementation and the compliance and monitoring of these standards would require a Grid-West or an alternate entity (see Figure 2).

Proposal for the Development of Transmission Adequacy Standards

Based on public comments and discussions that have transpired between BPA and other regional entities, BPA submits the following proposal to the region for further consideration:

1. The geographic scope for the development of the transmission adequacy standards will be for the Northwest Interconnected Area.
2. A technical forum will be created under the NWPP's Northwest Transmission Assessment Committee (NTAC) (see, Figure 1). The forum would be open to the public and would advocate participation from the varied transmission customers, constituents and public interest groups from the Northwest Region (utilities, IPP's, generation developers, marketers, PUCs and other public interest groups).
3. The scope of the effort would be limited to the development of transmission adequacy standards for the Northwest Interconnected Area. Implementation and compliance/monitoring would be achieved by the formation of Grid-West or an alternate organization (see, Figure 2). However, this does not preclude transmission providers to voluntarily adhere to the new set of standards.
4. The technical forum will develop clear priorities of the issues at hand to ensure efficient evaluation and relevant discussion.
5. Draft standards and applicable metrics will be developed by September 2005. The forum will create a roadmap with key milestones to meet the target date.
6. Logistics:
 - a. Meetings scheduled in coordination with NTAC meetings.
 - b. A chairperson will be selected to provide leadership and facilitation of the group.
 - c. The effort will be funded through the Transmission Planning Committee (TPC).
 - d. The technical forum will report to the TPC through NTAC (see, Figure 1).
 - e. Information will be shared via the NWPP web site and through an electronic mailing list that will be developed for these efforts.

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Figure 1: Proposed Layout for the Technical Forum

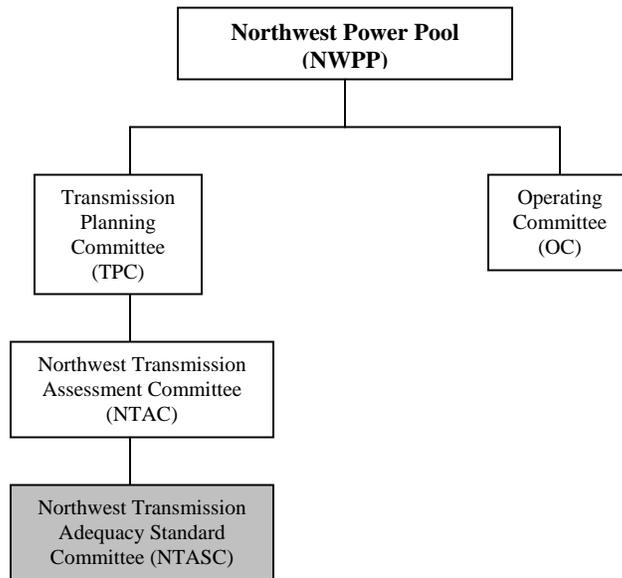
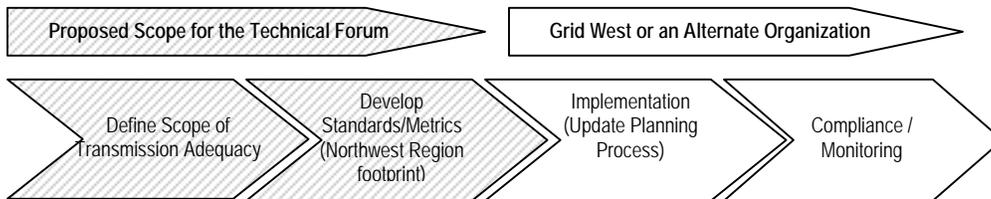


Figure 2: Proposed Strategy



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