Northern Tier Transmission Group (NTTG)

Planning Committee Charter

Purpose

The NTTG Planning Group has been created to meet the following goal:

> *To provide a forum where all interested parties are encouraged to participate in the planning, coordination, and implementation of a robust transmission system that is capable of supporting an efficient west-wide electricity market while meeting WECC and NERC reliability standards. The wide participation envisioned in this process (including transmission owners, customers and state regulators) is intended to result in transmission expansion plans that meet a variety of needs and have a broad basis of support.*

Authority of the Planning Committee

The NTTG Planning Committee is formed, as specified in the NTTG Planning Agreement, with the task of coordinating transmission planning within the NTTG footprint, coordination with our sub-regional planning groups and the WECC planning committees. The committee reports to the NTTG Steering Committee.

Principles

The planning group will operate according to the following principles:

1. **Coordination –** Coordinate between the entities developing the transmission system, including the regulatory community, and the entities that utilize and benefit from the transmission system. It will be the responsibility of the project participants to determine the specifics of a project such as the scope of the project, lead entity or entities, project participants, and funding.

2. **Openness –** Meetings will be open to all stakeholders and conducted in accordance with critical infrastructure and standard of conduct rules.

3. **Transparency –** Provide a forum for transmission owners and operators to clearly disclose the criteria, assumptions, and data that underlie their transmission system plans.

4. **Information Exchange –** Provide a forum for the exchange of information among transmission owners, regulators and entities that utilize and benefit from the transmission system.

5. **Comparability –** Will develop transmission system plans that meet the needs of the sub-region and region and treat all customers comparably.

6. **Dispute Resolution –** Disputes will be resolved through the process defined in the Planning Agreement.

7. **Regional Participation** – This committee will coordinate its efforts with other sub-regional planning groups and WECC planning committees.

8. **Economic Planning Studies –** Economic, as well as reliability, will be considered in the transmission planning process.

9. **Cost Allocation –** Cost allocation will be addressed by the NTTG Cost Allocation Committee

10. **Recovery of Planning Costs –** Cost recovery is defined in the NTTG Planning Agreement.

11. **Collaboration with Regulators –** Transmission plans will be developed in close collaboration with regulators to facilitate the implementation of energy policy, information sharing, and enhance and streamline project permitting, financing and construction.

12. **Avoid Duplication** - NTTG will perform technical study work that is not duplicative of work done by others and will rely as much as possible on the technical studies conducted by project sponsors and studies conducted in other forums.

13. **Share Workload** - Members of NTTG will share the study work. In general, members will study the areas where they have an interest. The results of the individual work will be shared with NTTG.

Footprint/Coordination

The core transmission planning footprint includes portions of the states of Idaho, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon and Nevada. Transmission plans will be coordinated with neighboring states and countries through:

1. **Interconnection Wide:** The Western Electric Coordinating Council's Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC).

2. **Canada:** The Northwest Transmission Assessment Committee (NTAC);

3. **Washington and Oregon:** The Northwest Transmission Assessment Committee (NTAC) and Columbia Grid;

4. **California:** The California Independent System Operator and through direct contact with other California entities such as the California Department of Water Resources;

5. **Colorado:** The Colorado Coordinated Planning Group (CCPG);

6. **Arizona and New Mexico:** The Southwest Area Transmission Study (SWAT) and WestConnect; and

Committee Operating Structure

Committee membership

The Planning Committee will be composed of three types of members:

1. Transmission providers – must be signatory of planning agreement (one official member)
2. Transmission users – must be signatory of planning agreement (one official member) – question whether this is required
3. Regulators and other agencies that are interested in transmission development (one official member per regulatory agency)

Committee Governance

The Planning Committee will elect a Chair from among the transmission providers and users that are a signatory of the Planning Agreement

Committee Meetings

Planning Committee meetings will be held at specific milestone points defined in the Transmission Planning Cycle. There will be a minimum of two meetings per year. The meetings will be called by the Chair. Meetings may be in person, teleconference, or webinar as required. Meeting agenda and meeting notice will be posted on the NTTG web site and provided to the members at least ten calendar days in advance. Presentations will be posted on the NTTG web site and provided to the members two business days in advance. Minutes will be taken and published for each meeting on the NTTG and transmission provider's web site.

Decision making

The Planning Committee shall make decisions through consensus. If an item that has been called for decision does not attain committee consensus, then the item will be tabled. A tabled item may not be brought to the floor during the remainder of the meeting.

Budget

The Planning Committee will develop a budget to pay for meeting facilitators, study contractors, and other expenses. The budget will be submitted to the NTTG Funding Committee for approval.

Comprehensive Transmission Plan

The planning group will biennially prepare a long-term (10 year) bulk transmission expansion plan. The plan will provide strategic transmission options (economic and reliability projects) and specific alternative plans for reinforcing the transmission system. The plan is also intended to help coordinate the integration of new generation into the system and to reduce transmission congestion.

Specifically, the comprehensive transmission plan and/or planning process will:

1. Identify transmission needs of transmission customers (e.g., point-to-point, network, and retail native load).

    a. Native load needs will be incorporated by coordinating with the various integrated resource planning (IRP) processes. Network transmission customers will be asked to submit information on their projected loads and resources on a comparable basis (e.g., planning horizon and format). The intent will be to plan for all end-use loads on a comparable basis.

    b. Each transmission provider's point-to-point customers will be asked to submit any projections they have of a need for service over the planning horizon and at what receipt and delivery points.

2. Identify transmission congestion that is an impediment to the efficient operation of electricity markets. Congestion on the existing and planned system will be reviewed and evaluated. In addition, the impacts on congestion of potential new generation facilities or new transmission projects will be considered. This is expected to include production simulation studies.

3. Work with TEPPC to include the needs of other sub-regions and support WECC transmission planning.

The work is intended to be completed primarily by the transmission owners in the footprint utilities with input from all interested stakeholders. After completing this need analysis, the planning group will prepare a comprehensive transmission plan.

Transmission Planning Cycle

The comprehensive transmission planning process will comprised of the following milestone activities:

1. Information gathering – The collection of IRP and customer transmission use requests.
2. Study plan development and assumptions – The identification of the loads, resources, transmission requests, desired flows, constraints, etc. to be included and monitored during the study period.

3. Base case – The modeling of the system loads, resources, improvements, etc. to be studied.
4. Draft study results -
5. Final report -

Project facilitation

After production of adequate transmission plans, the planning committee will facilitate project implementation. However, project participation agreements, financing, permitting, and construction are ultimately the responsibility of the individual project participants.

Confidentiality of data

All data supplied to the Planning Committee or subcommittees will be marked by the provider in accordance with the appropriate CEII document class (http://www.ferc.gov/legal/ceii-foia/ceii/classes.asp#skipnavsub) and will be treated appropriately by all committee and subcommittee members.

Standards of Conduct