

Update on Fast Track Transmission Candidate Project Plan

The Planning Group has outlined the following information and invites stakeholder and participant comment. This is to ensure open, transparent review of the information assembled to date and to facilitate the identification of need-based transmission expansion within the Northern Tier physical footprint. This is in no way intended to replace or compete with existing project proposals, but to provide opportunity and facilitate the examination of common needs and objectives.

The Fast Track approach utilized in this process is not a thorough planning analysis such as the production cost simulations done under RMATS. This process was initiated to quickly (within a six month effort) identify candidate transmission projects through an open stakeholder process which should be explored. The rigorous technical planning and WECC rating processes are to be initiated at the conclusion of the Fast Track process where project sponsors are willing to pursue transmission expansion.

Development and implementation of formal study cycles under Order 890 are a separate initiative for the Northern Tier planning group via coordination in the WECC/TEPPC process, and sub-regional planning groups such as WestConnect, CAISO, ColumbiaGrid, and the NWPP/NTAC.

Approach

1. Assemble readily available load forecast and resource development information for the defined planning horizon (10 years). These are incremental, and do not include existing load or resource values, only what is expected to be added.
2. Identify significant native load requirements from Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), and the geographic location and magnitude of the defined need.
3. Identify significant resource potential areas by geographic location and fuel type to meet the defined need. This may not accurately represent the resources acquired via formal procurement processes; however it does provide strong indication of availability and probability of supply.
4. Review the Northern Tier Transmission Use Available Transmission Capacity (ATC) information, in addition to Transmission Providers' queue requests and study information.
5. Review past studies, such as RMATS, to provide validation and sensibility.
6. By examining load centers, resource zones, existing transmission availability, geographic corridor constrictions and inter-connectivity, major transmission "hubs" are identified.
7. Utilize transmission segments or "spokes" to connect resource zones, load centers, and transmission hubs.
8. Transmission segments or spokes which connect load centers to resource zones and/or transmission hubs within the Northern Tier footprint are identified as potential Fast Track transmission projects for further study and project development.
9. Finalization of these efforts will occur in late April or early May, with a public review meeting during May in conjunction with efforts of the NTTG Transmission Use Group on ATC transparency and roll out of the Order 890 strawman.