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BPA Proposal for Developing Regional Transmission Adequacy Standards

Background

On September 28, 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 criteria by which BPA will 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.

Below we summarize the comments received and offer a proposal for proceeding to develop 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. While the comments were generally supportive of the proposed concept, a number of comments suggested a shift in the original plan proposed by BPA:

1. Scope – There was a general consensus that the efforts should be refocused on developing standards for the entire Northwest Power Pool (NWPP) footprint² rather than just the BPA system. This change also recognizes that the NWPP footprint is similar in scope to that of the proposed Grid West.
2. Coordinating regional resource adequacy and transmission adequacy – commenters emphasized that there is an important link between the two and that the regional process for developing transmission adequacy standards must be coordinated with the ongoing regional efforts for developing resource adequacy standards.³
3. Planning Forum and Timing – Many parties commented that to be effective the standards should be applied through coordinated regional planning. This process to develop standards does not intend to address coordinated transmission planning & the resolution of associated implementation issues, since those issues are being addressed in the Grid West and Transmission Issues Group discussions (see Figure 1). When a planning forum becomes active it can adopt and modify whatever standards are developed now. However, BPA believes that it should move forward to resolve the standards issue now because of current limitations on its borrowing authority and the interest within the region to ensure scarce capital is directed toward the right transmission additions.

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

² The Northwest Power Pool footprint includes the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, parts of Nevada and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

³ Power & Conservation Council – Power Supply Adequacy Forum

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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 should be for the NWPP footprint.
2. The scope of the effort should be limited to the development of transmission adequacy standards. Coordinated regional planning and compliance/monitoring will not be addressed in this forum and is envisioned to be achieved by the formation of Grid West or an alternate organization (see Figure 1). Until that time it is assumed that transmission providers can voluntarily comply with the new set of standards.
3. The efforts should be coordinated with the regional resource adequacy efforts.
4. A technical forum should be created under the NWPP's Transmission Planning Committee (TPC). The forum should be open to the public and should encourage participation from transmission owners and customers, states, Tribes and public interest groups (see Figure 2).
5. The technical forum should immediately develop priorities of the issues to ensure efficient evaluation and timely completion of the most critical elements.
6. Draft standards and applicable metrics should be developed by September 2005. The forum should create a roadmap with key milestones to meet the target date.
7. Logistics:
 - a. Meetings should be scheduled to coordinate with the Northwest Transmission Assessment Committee (NTAC) meetings in order to minimize travel for participants.
 - b. A full time chairperson should be designated to provide leadership and facilitation of the group.
 - c. The technical forum should follow the similar guides that TPC setup for NTAC (see Figure 2).
 - d. Information should be shared via the NWPP web site and through an electronic mailing list that will be developed specifically for these efforts.
 - e. Updates should be provided at the TPC meetings.

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Figure 1: Proposed Strategy

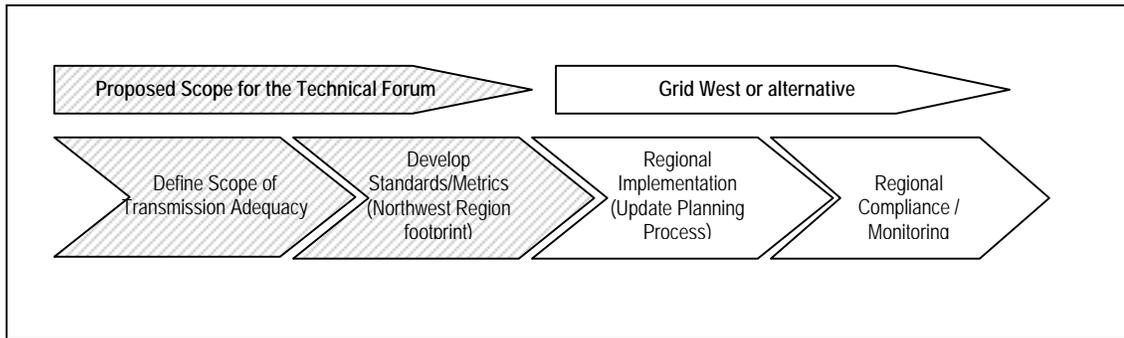


Figure 2: Proposed Layout for the Technical Forum

