

**ATTACHMENT K****Transmission Planning Process****1. Description and Purpose of the Planning Process**

This Attachment K describes the Transmission Provider's three forms of transmission planning activities. Each transmission planning activity will include the generic planning elements described in this Attachment K as part of the broader planning requirements of the activity. Specifically, each planning activity will be initiated through notification to Interested Parties and will include the open and transparent development of the scope of transmission planning studies leading to the establishment of a set of Projects comprising the Transmission Plan. In its application, the planning process may vary depending on the needs and objectives of the specific transmission planning activity being undertaken. The Transmission Provider's planning activities may be mandated by provincial legislation or driven by corporate planning needs from year to year.

There are three forms of transmission planning activities that the Transmission Provider undertakes as required:

- (a) Long-term Planning: The first form of transmission planning occurs within the framework of the Transmission Provider's long-term planning. This activity provides a long-term plan relating to bulk Transmission System needs; i.e. typically those facilities at the highest voltage levels that are required to move energy over long distances. While focused at the bulk level, long-term planning considers a wide range of supply-side and demand-side options, resulting in an integrated system plan.
- (b) Transmission Capital Planning: A second form of transmission planning is informed by the results of long-term planning and periodically assesses the Transmission System requirements over a shorter planning horizon. This transmission capital planning activity serves to identify the capital requirements necessary to fund

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Transmission System enhancements at all transmission voltage levels, as well as to meet the NERC transmission planning mandatory reliability standards as adopted in British Columbia by the BCUC.

- (c) Regional Planning: A third form of transmission planning includes consideration of other transmission owners that have an interest in transmission development undertaken within British Columbia. This is expected to take place through the framework of BCCPG and WECC. Within British Columbia, the BCCPG enables coordination, and where appropriate, integration of the transmission planning functions of its members. Outside of British Columbia, the BCCPG represents the interests of its members through participation in WECC planning groups, committees and subcommittees.

The Transmission Provider will ensure that any transmission planning it undertakes under this Attachment K meets FERC's nine transmission planning principles and will specify on its website how these principles will be addressed at the onset of each planning activity. The nine FERC transmission planning principles are: coordination, openness, transparency, information exchange, comparability, dispute resolution, regional coordination, economic planning studies, and cost allocation.

None of the three planning activities in Sections 1(a), (b), (c) guarantee Transmission Service. A Transmission Service request must be made separately by an Eligible Customer under the relevant provisions of the Tariff. This Attachment K does not place obligations on the Transmission Provider to construct upgrades or facilities identified in a study or in its Transmission Plan. This Attachment K supports, but does not replace the Transmission Provider's construction-related obligations in other portions of the Tariff. Point-to-Point Transmission Service, Network Integration Transmission Service and Interconnection Service requests are governed by and studied in accordance with other portions of the Tariff. Where possible, these study processes will be incorporated into the transmission planning activities described in this Attachment K.

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**2. Definitions**

**BCCPG** means the British Columbia Coordinated Planning Group or successor organization.

**Economic Planning Studies** means studies undertaken by the Transmission Provider with respect of economic upgrades such as congestion reduction or the integration of new resources.

**FERC** means the United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**Interested Party** means any person or group of persons that have expressed an interest in the Transmission Provider's transmission planning process so as to ensure comparable open access transmission service and limit the potential for undue discrimination.

**NERC** means the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

**Planning Manual** means the documentation produced and updated from time to time by the Transmission Provider that describes the basic methodology, criteria and assumptions used by the Transmission Provider.

**Point of Contact** means the contact designated by the Transmission Provider to whom all information and inquiries related to the planning activities described in this Attachment K should be directed.

**Project** means a capital project or concept for a capital project to expand the capability of the Transmission System to meet potential requirements and opportunities.

**Tariff** means the Transmission Provider's Open Access Transmission Tariff.

**Transmission Plan** means the outline of one or more Projects that meet the needs identified in the study plan developed pursuant to Section 5 of this Attachment K.

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**Transmission Planning Meeting** means a meeting to provide information and to solicit input from Interested Parties on the Transmission Provider's planning activities.

### **3. Information Exchange**

Throughout each transmission planning activity undertaken by the Transmission Provider, the Transmission Provider will ensure that there are opportunities for information exchange between the Transmission Provider and Interested Parties. The opportunities provided for information exchange in a particular planning activity will be dependent on the nature of the specific planning activity being undertaken and will be determined by the Transmission Provider. The requirements and timelines for information exchange opportunities will be posted to the Transmission Provider's public website.

#### **3.1 Point of Contact**

The Transmission Provider will designate a Point of Contact for each planning activity and will post the Point of Contact including contact details on the Transmission Provider's public website. All information and inquiries related to the planning activities described in this Attachment K should be directed to the Point of Contact.

#### **3.2 Interested Party - Options for Providing Input**

The Transmission Provider may use one or more of the following mechanisms for obtaining input from Interested Parties in a transmission planning activity.

##### **3.2.1 Written Comment Periods**

The Transmission Provider may establish a comment period through which it will take into account the written comments of Interested Parties with respect to a particular phase of a planning activity. The requirements and timelines for providing written comments to the Point of Contact will be made available through the Transmission Provider's public website.

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**3.2.2 Transmission Planning Meetings**

The Transmission Provider may hold a Transmission Planning Meeting with Interested Parties with respect to a particular phase of a planning activity. The timing and agenda of any Transmission Planning Meeting will be made available through the Transmission Provider's public website.

**3.2.3 Focus Groups**

The Transmission Provider will engage focus groups where appropriate. Where focus groups are engaged, the Transmission Provider will post their terms of reference and schedule on the Transmission Provider's public website.

**3.2.4 Use of Feedback Received**

The Transmission provider will post input received from Interested Parties, or summaries of such input where appropriate, to its public website. The Transmission Provider will consider the input received from Interested Parties and may update the transmission planning documentation to reflect such input. Any such updates will be at the discretion of the Transmission Provider. The Transmission Provider will post the revised documents on its public website.

**3.3 Guidelines for Submission of Planning Information**

The Transmission Provider will establish guidelines regarding the format, schedule and procedure for the submission of planning information to the Transmission Provider in accordance with Section 4 of this Attachment K. The guidelines will be posted on the Transmission Provider's public website and will address how and when customer planning information and requests for Economic Planning Studies are to be submitted and how Economic Planning Studies are to be evaluated.

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**3.4 Availability of Planning Information**

Subject to the need to protect confidential or security sensitive information, the Transmission Provider will post on an ongoing basis the following on its public website:

- (a) the Transmission Provider's Planning Manual;
- (b) the Transmission Provider's current Transmission Plan;
- (c) the status of network upgrades for Projects in progress;
- (d) information received from Interested Parties throughout the course of the planning process; and,
- (e) planning information developed in the course of the planning process, including: circulated draft and final study and Transmission Plans, minutes of meetings and customer comments.

Subject to the need to protect confidential information or security sensitive information, the Transmission Provider may also post other information the Transmission Provider considers relevant to the planning process, including information received from advisory groups, regional planning groups, and local and regional studies.

**3.5 Inquiries**

At any time, Interested Parties may direct inquiries related to the transmission planning process to the Point of Contact identified on the Transmission Provider's public website. The Point of Contact will respond to such inquiries as deemed appropriate by the Transmission Provider.

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**4. Initiation of a Planning Activity**

The Transmission Provider will announce the initiation of a planning activity via electronic mail to Interested Parties and on its public website. The announcement will include:

- (a) a description of the planning activity being undertaken, including anticipated milestones and schedule;
- (b) instructions on how to access the Transmission Provider's planning information;
- (c) instructions on how to access the Transmission Provider's guidelines for providing planning information;
- (d) an outline of the anticipated opportunities that will be available to Interested Parties to provide input into the planning activity as contemplated in Section 3 of this Attachment K;
- (e) instructions on how to access the Transmission Provider's guidelines for making requests for Economic Planning Studies; and
- (f) the number of Economic Planning Studies that the Transmission Provider will undertake during the planning activity.

**4.1 Submission of Planning Information**

In accordance with the guidelines established for the submission of planning information in Section 3 of this Attachment K, the Transmission Provider will receive planning information from Customers and Interested Parties as follows:

- (a) Interested parties may submit written requests for Economic Planning Studies.

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- (b) Network Customers shall provide updates to their long-term forecasts on Network Loads and Network Resources, Contingency Resource Plans and the other information contemplated by Section 31.6 and Attachment P of the Tariff.
- (c) Transmission Customers receiving Long-Term Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service shall provide a 10-year projection of the need for and usage of Long-Term Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service on the Transmission System including receipt and delivery points.
- (d) Interconnection Customers shall provide a 10-year forecast with respect to any planned additions or upgrades, including their status and expected In-Service Date, planned retirements and environmental restrictions.
- (e) Any Interested Party may also provide:
  - i. information related to non-wires solutions to offset or defer transmission investments, including targeted demand-side management and generation options; and
  - ii. any information on potential requirements or opportunities that the Interested Party believes should be considered in a particular planning activity.

If any Eligible Customer or Interested Party fails to provide data or otherwise participate as described in this Attachment K, then the Transmission Provider shall not be obligated to consider the Eligible Customer's or Interested Party's requirements during the planning process and may plan the Transmission System based on the most recent data received.

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**5. Communication of the Scope of Transmission Plan Studies****5.1 Posting of Draft Scope of Transmission Plan Studies**

Once a planning activity has been initiated as outlined in Section 4 of this Attachment K, the Transmission Provider will make the following information available through its public website:

- (a) the expected start date and duration of the planning activity, and the tasks to be undertaken as part of the activity.
- (b) a high level review of the Transmission Provider's study methodology, data and Planning Manual,
- (c) a proposed list of studies that meet the Transmission Provider's needs and opportunities;
- (d) which, if any, requested Economic Planning Studies can be combined;
- (e) which Economic Planning Studies will be undertaken, and the appropriate planning activity for them to be undertaken;
- (f) a review of the Transmission Provider's coordination among the planning activities described in Section 1 of this Attachment K, including a description of those Economic Planning Studies that have been referred for consideration as part of a specific planning activity; and
- (g) an outline of the opportunities for Interested Parties to provide their input on the draft scope in accordance with Section 3 of this Attachment K.

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**5.2 Posting of Final Scope of Transmission Plan Studies**

The Transmission Provider will consider input provided by Interested Parties and may update the scope documentation relating to Transmission Plan. Once completed, the Transmission Provider will post the final scope document to its public website.

**6 Completion of Studies**

Once the final scope document is completed, the Transmission Provider will complete the studies contemplated therein.

**6.1 Economic Planning Studies**

- (a) The Transmission Provider will conduct the selected Economic Planning Studies within its planning scope.
- (b) The Transmission Provider may request proponents of selected Economic Planning Studies and other Interested Parties to supply information that is reasonably necessary for the Transmission Provider to conduct the selected Economic Planning Studies. Such information may include cost information for transmission and generation facilities and forecasts of demand. Any information so provided will be considered not to be confidential unless it is claimed as such in accordance with Section 8 of this Attachment K. The Transmission Provider will have no obligation to proceed with an Economic Planning Study if the Transmission Provider does not receive the information reasonably necessary to conduct the Economic Planning Study.

**6.2 Use of Customer Planning Information**

Subject to confidentiality and security restrictions, any information received from Interested Parties may be used by the Transmission Provider without restriction in its planning activities described in this Attachment K and in the Transmission Provider's other planning activities or studies, such as studies in response to requests for

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Transmission Service or interconnection. However, if the Transmission Provider reasonably determines that any information provided under this Attachment K is inappropriate or unreasonable for a particular purpose, the Transmission Provider will not use it for such purpose.

The good faith projections of anticipated point-to-point uses of the Transmission System or forecasted generation additions or upgrades provided by customers are additional data for consideration by the Transmission Provider in its planning activities. The Transmission Provider may consider such projections, for example, to support likely scenarios for new investments. The projections, however, will not be treated as a substitute for actual Point-To-Point reservations or interconnection requests.

### **6.3 Preliminary Set of Projects**

After the completion of the studies, the Transmission Provider will post the following on its public website:

- (a) study results; and,
- (b) a preliminary set of Projects.

### **6.4 Notice of Preliminary Set of Projects**

The Transmission Provider will inform Interested Parties through electronic mail and its public website that a preliminary set of Projects has been developed and posted and will outline the opportunities for Interested Parties to provide input in accordance with Section 3 of this Attachment K.

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**7. Transmission Plan Development****7.1 Draft Transmission Plan**

After considering input received from Interested Parties regarding the preliminary set of Projects, the Transmission Provider will develop and post on its public website a draft Transmission Plan. The draft Transmission Plan will include the following:

- (a) Projects that meet the needs identified in Section 5 of this Attachment K;
- (b) Projects that are in progress;
- (c) Projects that meet the requirements of Transmission Service and Interconnection Service requests;
- (d) Projects that have been developed sufficiently for the Transmission Provider to seek approval from its Board of Directors; and
- (e) Projects for which no approval will be sought in the current planning cycle.

The Transmission Provider will outline what opportunities will be available to Interested Parties for providing input on the draft Transmission Plan in accordance with Section 3 of this Attachment K.

**7.2 Final Transmission Plan**

The Transmission Provider will consider input received from Interested Parties and may update the Transmission Plan as appropriate. Once completed, the Transmission Provider will post the final Transmission Plan to its public website. This will be the final step of a transmission planning activity. The inclusion of a Project in its Transmission Plan does not mean that a decision has been made by the Transmission Provider to proceed with the project.

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**8. Confidentiality**

The Transmission Provider will develop guidelines with respect to how it will receive, use and disclose confidential and security sensitive information, including specifying how customers may submit information on a confidential basis and how a party seeking access to such information can request access to it. These guidelines will be posted on the Transmission Provider's public website.

**9. Regional Planning**

The Transmission Provider will coordinate with interconnected systems through its participation in WECC, the BCCPG, other sub-regional planning groups and through direct engagement of neighbouring systems, as appropriate.

**9.1 WECC**

As a member of WECC, the Transmission Provider will follow WECC's policies and procedures for inter-regional planning and will participate in WECC's planning activities as it deems appropriate. The Transmission Provider will post current links to WECC's procedures and guidelines on its public website as well as information detailing the Transmission Provider's participation in WECC's planning processes.

**9.2 BCCPG**

As a member of BCCPG, the Transmission Provider will follow BCCPG's policies and procedures for British Columbia regional planning and will participate in BCCPG's planning activities as it deems appropriate. The Transmission Provider will post current links to BCCPG's procedures and guidelines on its public website as well as information detailing the Transmission Provider's participation in BCCPG's planning processes.

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**9.3 Participation in Regional Planning**

Interested Parties who are interested in any regional planning activities may contact the Transmission Provider's Point of Contact to obtain information with respect to opportunities for participation in these forums.

**10 Dispute Resolution Process**

The dispute resolution procedures described in Section 12 of the Tariff are not applicable to disputes arising from the transmission planning process described in this Attachment K. Interested Parties are encouraged to bring to the attention of the Point of Contact any issues arising during the planning activities outlined in this Attachment K. Interested Parties may also file a complaint with the BCUC with respect to any such issue.

**11. Cost Allocation**

The Transmission Provider will recover the costs of projects required for meeting service requests and system improvements in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff.

The Transmission Provider is not obligated to expand the Transmission System based on the results of Economic Planning Studies. Where the Transmission Provider decides to construct facilities based on the results of one or more Economic Planning Studies, it will do so in accordance with any transmission expansion, congestion or other similar policy developed by the Transmission Provider and in effect at that time, subject to BCUC approval. In these cases, the Transmission Provider will apply the cost allocation principles of the applicable policy under which the project is developed, subject to BCUC approval.

**12. No Participant Funding**

Interested Parties may participate in the activities associated with the transmission planning process described herein at their own cost.

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