

Unanswered Questions from October 13 & 16 Webinars

Q: What authority does the EIPC Analysis Team or steering committee have to ask/order regional planning authorities to revise plans where they do not add up to a coherent interconnect plan?

A: The EIPC Analysis Team is comprised of regional Planning Authorities. The EIPC and the stakeholder steering committee have no authority over regional Planning Authorities, but no problems are foreseen with the content of their plans. The regional Planning Authority participants in the EIPC Analysis Team have considerable experience in working with each other. Results from the EIPC studies will be available to the Planning Authorities as one input to their regional processes, but do not carry an obligation for implementation.

Q: Any idea as to what degree the ISO's would be bound by the resulting proposals?

A: Results from the EIPC studies will be available to the Planning Authorities as one input to their regional processes, but do not carry an obligation for implementation.

Q: Who would have the construction responsibility of interconnection wide plans? Would each transmission owner be responsible to construct the portion running through its service area?

A: The purpose of the EIPC is to conduct interconnection-wide transmission analyses based on the roll-up of the plans developed by regional planning authorities. The DOE study proposal extends this effort to include analysis of scenarios developed by stakeholders and endorsed by states. No entity has a responsibility to build any of the transmission options that come out of these analyses.

Q: How is Florida being represented with only the Progress, FPL and JEA Planning Authorities in the group?

A: Progress Energy Florida, Florida Power and Light, and JEA are representing their planning regions. The other planning authorities in the state of Florida are aware of the EIPC effort and are eligible to join with the other Planning Authorities on the Analysis Team, but have not chosen to do so at this time. Participation in the EIPC stakeholder process is open to anyone.

Q: What are the requirements to be a state representative?

A: Within the context of the EIPC, a definition of state representative has not been established. The DOE FOA describes state representative participation on the



interconnection studies in the body of the FOA.

Q: How will you deal with CEII information from the Planning Authorities and other security issues in this open stakeholder process?

A: The EIPC Analysis Team expects that the existing processes and confidentiality agreements covering data exchange between the Planning Authorities and their stakeholders will be adapted and expanded to address the EIPC needs.

Q: At what point in the project will the cost allocation be considered? What allocation methodologies have been considered? Do you anticipate that EIPC will ever tackle the transmission cost allocations issue?

A: The EIPC process as currently envisioned is not expected to deal with cost allocation nor attempt to resolve the cost allocation issue. However, the results from the EIPC analyses may be used to inform cost allocation discussions outside of the EIPC process.

Q: Will the technical analysis include dynamic performance, e.g. stability, in addition to steady state power flow analysis?

A: Yes. The EIPC Analysis Team envisions performing dynamic analysis during the reliability analyses of transmission alternatives.

Q: Will there be another webinar?

A: Yes, the EIPC Analysis Team anticipates holding additional stakeholder discussions in the November-December timeframe. Notification will be posted on the EIPC website – eipconline.com – and provided via e-mail to interested parties that have asked for their names to be added to the EIPC listserv during the October webinars or via the EIPC website.

Q: What does the term roll up actually mean - development?

A: The EIPC effort will establish the initial reference case model of the Eastern Interconnection bulk power system by aggregating—or “rolling up”—the existing regional plans. Once that is done, the EIPC Analysis Team will perform interconnection wide reliability and production cost analysis on that aggregated model to determine whether additional efficiencies can be gained. This information will then be used as feedback to the regions as well as become the starting point for scenario analysis.

Q: Given that there are no Canadian entities among the principal investigators will there be a problem when integrating NPCC data?

A: The EIPC Analysis Team does not anticipate difficulties in integrating the data and planning information from portions of the Eastern Interconnection covered by regional Planning Authorities that are not signatories to the EIPC Analysis Team Agreement.

Q: Is there enough consistency among regionally developed plans to allow a roll-up that properly reflects the sum of the parts?

A: Yes, there is already considerable experience between entities in coordination of adjacent plans. The roll-up of regionally developed plans is the starting point for additional analyses to consider multi-regional reliability issues and to look for additional efficiencies in the plans. The resulting model will then be available as the reference case for additional scenario analysis and for use by the Planning Authorities in their regional processes.

Q: Will all future base case systems be assumed to meet resource and transmission adequacy criteria?

A: Future scenarios will need to meet all applicable reliability criteria.

Q: Will the transmission owner group be self-formed or coordinated by the RTO's or the steering committee?

A: The coordination of various stakeholder groups has not been determined and is expected to be largely self-driven. The EIPC Analysis Team welcomes input from the various interest groups on their collective thinking on how they would like to be represented on the stakeholder steering group and technical working groups.

Q: How would this process accommodate the very tight planning timeline in the Senate energy bill if it passes?

A: The EIPC process is moving forward and the proposal to DOE includes a study timeline responsive to the FOA. The EIPC Analysis Team is not in a position to speculate on how this might fit with possible future legislation.

Q: Will the technical analysis of the roll up of the regional plans be used as some type of audit to verify compliance with NERC TPL-001?

A: No. The EIPC effort is separate and apart from NERC and NERC compliance activities

Q: How does the role of the Principal Investigators and Planning Authorities differ?

A: The EIPC Analysis Team is a multi-party consortium formed by a coalition of regional Planning Authorities (PAs) that are listed on the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) compliance registry as PAs. As of November 1, 2009 twenty-four Planning Authorities have joined the group. Eight of those Planning Authorities have agreed to support a proposal in response to the DOE FOA as Principal Investigators (PIs).

Q: How are you going to deal with ensuring there are diverse voices in the mix? Have you looked at the Western process and the role it carves out for folks like environmental non-government organizations (NGOs)?

A: The EIPC stakeholder process is being developed to share information and provide venues for input from a broad range of interests including: national and regional environmental organizations, consumer advocates, state, federal, and provincial government, transmission owners, planning authorities, load-serving entities, public power, renewable and conventional generation developers, and other industry segments. The EIPC Analysis Team has already implemented a number of opportunities for any interested organizations and individuals to participate including the website, a listserv and webinars. This effort will consider existing models as examples for the EIPC stakeholder process.

Q: How will the Stakeholder group, Technical Working Group and Steering Committee be assembled?

A: The network of interested stakeholders is being assembled now through open participation in the October 13 and 16 Webinars and will continue to grow over time. The manner in which the Technical Working Groups and Stakeholder Steering Committee (described in the proposal to DOE) will be established has not been determined at this time. These groups will be assembled through stakeholder dialog during the Fall, 2009 and continuing into the Winter and Spring, 2010.

Q: What will the EIPC do if they are not awarded funding under the DOE FOA#68?

A: The EIPC was conceived to meet the needs of the Eastern Interconnection before the FOA was announced. If the Planning Authorities are not successful in receiving an award from the FOA, they have committed to continue the process of completing a roll-up of the regionally developed transmission plans to seek improvements and efficiencies among the regions and to provide a reference case for conducting interconnection-wide analyses.

Q: What will be the process for determining the level of funding for NGO participation?

A: Funding for NGO participation in the DOE studies was included in the EIPC proposal and is subject to the DOE award.

Q: Will there be additional funding for NGO participation beyond travel expenses?

A: The proposal to DOE includes funding for representative NGO participation in face-to-face meetings recognizing that the budget is constrained. However, the EIPC plans to hold many of its stakeholder meetings in a manner that reduces costs for everyone, such as through the use of Webinars and conference calls, to enable as many people to participate on an on-going basis as possible.

Q: How much funding is proposed for NGO participation and what types of costs are proposed to be covered -- travel, technical assistance, etc.?

A: Funding for NGO participation in the Stakeholder Steering Committee is described in the Project Narrative from the proposal to DOE. "In addition to the expenses for the PIs and the primary subcontractors, the Project budget includes ...an allowance for travel costs and other expenditures to enable representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate." (Page 8) In addition, the EIPC plans to hold many of its stakeholder meetings in a manner that reduces costs for everyone, such as through the use of Webinars and conference calls, to enable as many people to participate on an on-going basis as possible.

Q: Does the Stakeholder Steering Committee direct the work of the technical group (Planning Authorities, etc.)?

A: The EIPC Analysis Team will provide the resources to perform the technical work required in the interconnection analyses. They will also be involved in setting up the computer models and providing the data necessary to test different transmission configurations. This activity requires deep knowledge of the transmission system. The Steering Committee will be responsible for assembling stakeholder input and providing guidance to the Analysis Team on the scenarios to be considered and for reviewing and commenting on the results of the analyses.

Q: Will the Stakeholder Steering Committee actually determine what scenarios will be studied by the Analysis Team or simply make recommendations to the groups and the Planning Authorities determine the scenarios to be analyzed?

A: As a part of the DOE proposal, the Stakeholder Steering Committee is given responsibility for determining what scenarios will be analyzed. The list of scenarios will then be forwarded to the states for their endorsement prior to completing the analytical work to develop alternative transmission solutions.

Q: What are the simulation tool(s) that will be employed in the process?

A: The DOE study proposal is based on using industry standard software that is presently used in regional planning, including GE MAPS, PSS/E, VSAT, and Promod. Transmission system data will be based on the MMWG cases and the regionally developed plans.

Q: What is the decision making role in the stakeholder group? Consensus? Simple majority? Super majority?

A: The decision making process of the stakeholder group is based on consensus building and does not envision the need for a formal voting process. The process for decision-making if consensus cannot be achieved has not been determined. (See page 14, criteria 2-8 from the Project Narrative of the DOE Proposal.)

Q: What accountability do the technical and steering groups have to the stakeholder group? If the technical committee or steering group is going to ignore a steering committee recommendation, how is the justification communicated?

A: Within the DOE proposal, the Technical Working Groups and Stakeholder Steering Committee are comprised of stakeholder representatives and will consider inputs and points of view from the entire stakeholder body. The role of the stakeholder Technical Working Groups is "to facilitate communication between the SSC and the broader stakeholder community." (See page 14 from the Project Narrative of the DOE proposal). The Stakeholder Steering Committee is given responsibility for determining what scenarios will be analyzed. The list of scenarios will be forwarded to the states for their endorsement prior to completing the analytical work to develop alternative transmission solutions.

Q: Will both the Phase I and Phase II reports from the DOE studies include transmission "options" and not just the scenarios?

A: That is the goal at this time. The EIPC Analysis Team expects that initially at least it will be fully occupied in developing solutions to the scenarios presented, but it seems likely that the scenarios will focus on alternatives for energy supply and the solutions will focus on transmission.

Q: Who makes the final decision on the composition of the steering group? i.e. size, specific members

A: No decisions have been made about the size of the stakeholder steering group. Over the next several months, the EIPC Analysis Team will seek input from stakeholders on the process for formulating the size and representation of the steering group and the process for selecting members.

Q: How will the analysis take into account Locational Marginal Pricing regimes, including marginal losses and congestion components, that are prevalent throughout much of the Eastern Interconnection?

A: Within the DOE study, the MAPS production cost model will capture locational prices, marginal losses and congestion costs.

Q: What provisions are being included for analysis of cost/kwh impact to the consumer of electricity provided under each of the scenarios?

A: The DOE study proposal calls for the production cost analysis to be performed at a “wholesale” level. There is no intent to measure the impact on the consumer since that is highly dependent upon retail rate design which varies significantly across the Eastern Interconnection by regulatory jurisdiction as well as by type of transmission provider (e.g. public vs. non-public utilities). Nevertheless, production cost analysis is the appropriate measure of efficiency and therefore a good metric to compare alternatives.

Q: How is the cost of any proposed expansion to be addressed in the stakeholder process?

A: The DOE study effort will develop high-level capital cost estimates for the transmission alternatives using planning type estimates. See Task 1.10 of the Project Narrative from the DOE proposal. These estimates will not be detailed engineering estimates and will not include detailed siting or routing analysis.

Q: How will independent transmission developers be involved?

A: Independent transmission developers, as owners and operators of transmission facilities, are included in the list of stakeholders that are envisioned to be part of the stakeholder process overall. (See Fig. 2 from the Project Narrative of the DOE proposal.)

Q: With state's having a third of the membership on the Stakeholder Steering Committee, how will their representation reflect geographical differences, focusing on not only ISO's but on sub-regions, like the mid Atlantic?

A: Based on the EIPC Analysis Team's understanding of the Eastern Interconnection State Planning Council (EISPC) proposal under Topic B of the DOE FOA, we anticipate that the states will develop their own process for the selection of their representatives for the Stakeholder Steering Committee. The EIPC Analysis Team anticipates working closely with the EISPC.

Q: What linkages do you expect between EIPC and the state process proposed under Topic B of the DOE FOA?

A: The EIPC Analysis Team anticipates establishing close coordination with the awardee(s) under Topic B and the EIPC process, subject to the terms of the DOE awards.

Q: Any special reason you select GE-MAPS for this analysis?

A: GE-MAPS is an industry standard software package that is presently used by EIPC Analysis Team members in many regional planning processes and will provide production cost information appropriate to the EIPC analysis.

Q: Have the states been involved in the decisions as to how the stakeholder process will be structured and operate as is being described today?

A: The EIPC stakeholder process and structure are still under development and no decisions have yet been made on outcomes. As noted earlier, the EIPC Analysis Team anticipates establishing close coordination between the awardee(s) under Topic B and the EIPC process, subject to the terms of the DOE awards.

Q: What level of participation are the current Transmission Owner/Operators intending to have on the Steering Committee?

A: As stated above, the EIPC Analysis Team welcomes input from transmission owners/operators and other interest groups on how their interests can best be represented on the steering committee or other stakeholder activities.

Q: Why isn't SPP on the principal investigators list?

A: SPP supports the EIPC through its membership but has opted not to participate as a PI at this time.

.