

Stakeholder Process Enhancements for the
EIPC Gas-Electric System Interface Study for
Portions of the North American Eastern Interconnection
DE-OE0000343, Recovery Act: Topic A

Introduction

As stated in the FOA, the anticipated benefit of this project was that long-term transmission requirements under a wide range of futures would become more apparent to many stakeholders, and broader awareness of the need for the key facilities included in collaboratively-developed transmission plans would facilitate more timely resolution of issues related to cost allocation and siting of these facilities.

Accordingly the FOA required that analyses and planning be developed and performed in a transparent and collaborative manner, and that the study processes be open to participation by state and federal officials, representatives from independent system operators (ISOs) and regional transmission organizations (RTOs), utilities, and relevant stakeholder bodies or non-government organizations (NGOs), including appropriate entities in Canada and Mexico.

To meet this requirement, the EIPC established the Stakeholder Steering Committee (SSC), a multi-constituency steering group, to provide strategic guidance on the scenarios to be modeled, the modeling tools to be used, key assumptions for the scenarios, and other essential activities. The SSC Charter defining its structure and how its members are elected and its membership and activities are posted on the EIPC web site.

Process Enhancements for Gas-Electric System Interface Study

For the Gas-Electric System Interface Study, the benefits of stakeholder participation will continue. Participating Planning Authorities (PPAs) will continue the relationship with the existing SSC. EIPC will recommend that the SSC, using its existing processes described in its Charter, add gas representatives to its membership since this will enable the SSC to more fully contribute to and benefit from the study.

However, the structure and Charter of the SSC will limit the number of gas representatives, as is the case for their other interest groups, so stakeholder participation will be further enhanced by utilizing stakeholder groups created for other purposes such as compliance with FERC Orders 890 or 1000 to facilitate stakeholder input in each PPA Area. PPA Stakeholder Groups typically include stakeholders with interests in electric transmission, electric generation, end users, NGOs, and the natural gas industry, so their involvement will enable a wider range of stakeholders to participate using their existing structures, communication processes, and meeting schedules. If representatives of the natural gas industry, including local gas distribution companies (LDCs), are not already participating in PPA Stakeholder Groups, invitations will be extended to them by the PPAs. PPA Stakeholder Groups typically meet with their PPAs at fixed times through the year, linked to their PPA planning cycle.

Stakeholder Participation and Input

The following identifies the planned input sought from stakeholders as EIPC revisits three of its Statement of Project Objective (SOPO) Tasks.

- Task 1: Initiate Project
 - Subtask 1.A: Adjust structure of SSC as needed.
 - EIPC will advise the SSC of the continuation of the Phase II work with the Gas-Electric System Interface Study. The SSC will be asked to reconvene and review its membership as well as plans and proposals for the study. The SSC will be introduced to the PPA Stakeholder Groups and their processes for interaction with the SSC and EIPC.
 - EIPC will advise the PPA Stakeholder Groups of the study activities. Existing meeting schedules for these groups will be obtained and reviewed. The PPA Stakeholder Groups will be introduced to the SSC and its processes for interaction with the PPA Stakeholder Groups and EIPC.
 - Subtask 1.E: Project task and scope development.
 - Throughout the study, EIPC will invite comments from the SSC and PPA Stakeholders Groups on the EIPC Stakeholder Process Enhancements for the EIPC Gas-Electric System Interface Study.
 - Prior to release of the Statement of Work (SOW) detailing the Gas-Electric System Interface Study, EIPC will invite comments from the SSC and PPA Stakeholder Groups on the SOW.
 - EIPC will present the Targets of the study and the proposal for subsequent stakeholder interactions to the SSC members and the PPA Stakeholder Groups in each of the PPA's Areas through existing PPA Stakeholder Group processes. Stakeholder feedback concerning those Targets will be compiled, posted, reviewed by the PPAs, and adopted as appropriate in consultation with DOE prior to the issuance of the RFP. In addition, the Project Manager, as well as PPA representatives, will continue regular periodic discussions with the EISPC and its staff to ensure coordination with the separate gas/electric coordination studies being undertaken by EISPC.
- Task 11: Review of Results
 - Subtask 11.A: Review results and develop first draft Phase II report.
 - Subtask 11.A will commence with development of a base case compilation of the existing and planned natural gas and electric infrastructure. The option of selecting a limited number of sensitivities will be made available to the SSC and PPA Stakeholder Groups. The PPAs and the Consultant shall first review with all stakeholders the base case and scenarios to be analyzed by the Consultant. The PPAs will identify the number of sensitivities that will be feasible. The SSC and each

- PPA Stakeholder Group can recommend one or more sensitivities for consideration for study.
- The PPAs will harmonize the input from the SSC and different PPA Stakeholder Groups into one or more sensitivities. The results of the PPAs' harmonization of input into one or more sensitivities will then be provided back to the SSC and each PPA Stakeholder Group for final review. Should any stakeholders object to a proposed sensitivity, representatives of the SSC, given its interconnection-wide focus, may be called upon to work with the PPAs to resolve conflicts and to reach consensus.
 - Subtask 11.B: Review results with SSC and solicit input on the draft report.
 - At appropriate points during the study, the PPAs and the Consultant shall review the assumptions and progress of the work, findings, and results with the SSC, EISPC, PPA Stakeholder Groups, and DOE. This will include the results of analysis of the alternative sensitivities developed under Subtask 11.A, analysis of contingencies on either the gas or the electric system that could impact reliability, and analysis of issues associated with dual fuel capability versus gas system expansion.
 - Subtask 11.C: Review draft report during workshop with stakeholders.
 - The PPAs and Consultant will review the draft final report on the EIPC Gas-Electric System Interface Study including all assumptions, progress, findings, and results, with the SSC, EISPC, PPA Stakeholder Groups, and DOE. Adequate time for comments will be provided and the PPAs, in consultation with the Consultant, will incorporate those comments into the Final Phase II Report as appropriate.
 - Task 12: Phase II Report
 - While Task 12 includes consideration and incorporation of stakeholder comments, and will likely include discussions with stakeholders, this Task as defined in the original SOPO does not include direct stakeholder effort.

Stakeholder Communications

Similar to stakeholder interaction to date, EIPC is planning to engage stakeholders through both face-to-face meetings and through webinars. It is anticipated that contributions by stakeholders will be achieved through at least three face-to-face meetings, one at the beginning, one mid-course, and one at the end of the Gas-Electric System Interface Study, combined with webinars and a possible additional face-to-face meeting as needed. Webinars will be coordinated to allow maximum participation of all stakeholders. PPA Stakeholder Groups will be invited to all SSC meetings. Meeting facilitation will be provided by PPA resources. SSC and PPA Stakeholder Group meeting schedules and announcements will be posted on the EIPC website.

The EIPC website will continue to be maintained and utilized, and its mailing lists will be used to keep stakeholders apprised of progress on the Gas-Electric System Interface Study. Comments received from stakeholders will be posted on the EIPC website on a page dedicated to the

study. Comments from PPA Stakeholder Groups may also be posted on each PPA's website and notices provided via the PPA mailing lists.