

The Stakeholder Steering Committee (SSC) for the first Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative project has been responsible for providing oversight and direction for the project studies performed by the EIPC Planning Authorities (PAs) and their consultants. The SSC believes that it has met this responsibility effectively and is very pleased that the diverse group of stakeholders comprising the SSC has been able to reach agreement on all of the issues before it. The SSC is also pleased with the working relationship between the SSC and the PAs that developed over the course of the project.

The SSC believes that the overall process employed for managing and conducting the project provided great value, and elements of that process should be continued in future interconnection-wide planning efforts. Specifically, broad and consistent stakeholder involvement, including input into the scenarios to be studied and the analyses undertaken was important. In addition, the interconnection-wide roll-up process provided valuable information on the planning activities and process undertaken across the interconnection, and how regional planning information may be reconciled and used productively in interconnection-wide transmission planning efforts.

In concluding its work, the SSC makes the following additional observations about the project, recognizing that each SSC sector, as well as SSC individual members, may provide additional observations on the study process and results, but may not speak for the SSC.

1. The project is the first ever effort to perform a transmission planning analysis on an eastern interconnection-wide basis. The objective of this project, as outlined by the FOA, is “to facilitate the development or strengthening of capabilities in [the Eastern Interconnection]... to prepare analyses of transmission requirements under a broad range of alternative futures and develop long-term interconnection-wide transmission expansion plans.” This goal has been met.
2. This project has been very helpful in understanding the complexity of interconnection-wide transmission planning and has provided a number of valuable lessons that should facilitate future efforts to integrate transmission plans developed on a regional basis and to study and identify multi-regional transmission additions needed to support future potential policy requirements on reliable and economic basis.
3. The three futures analysed in this effort were developed by a broad cross section of stakeholders from the Eastern Interconnection. These futures have significantly different policy drivers - a national renewable energy standard implemented regionally, an economy-wide carbon emission reduction requirement that is implemented primarily through carbon emission reductions in the electric utility sector, and a business as usual future that reflects current and likely environmental and renewable energy requirements. The project has provided a great deal of information on the significantly different generation and transmission additions and retirements that may be needed across the interconnection to meet the

objectives of these possible futures. The project also identified a number of important issues worthy of further study if the project were to be continued.

4. It is very important to emphasize for those who read the project report, but were not involved in the process, that the work done provides a high level analysis of the potential generation and transmission needs for the defined futures, focusing on a snapshot of a specific year - 2030. It was not the purpose of the project to develop specific, detailed transmission and generation expansion plans. Such plans would require much more detailed analysis, iteration and optimization than was possible in the project. As a result, the project results should not be seen as identifying or recommending the retirement or construction of any specific generation or transmission. A true, utility grade transmission planning process, focused on meeting the policy objectives of the futures studied on an economic basis, while meeting all applicable reliability and regulatory requirements, could lead to materially different results.
  
5. It is also very important for readers of the final report to recognize that the cost estimates in the project report are based on a variety of generalized assumptions. This information is only broadly indicative on a relative basis between futures. The cost information is not complete in that economic optimization of alternative transmission and generation additions was not undertaken. Also, the work considered only the cost of improvements to the high voltage transmission system and not the underlying system. -Nor were and does not include- costs and benefits external to the electric utility industry considered. The estimated costs for each future studied could change in significant ways in more detailed studies that seek to economically optimize generation and transmission additions, including required improvements to lower voltage facilities, to meet policy goals on a reliable basis. For this reason, the cost numbers and comparisons in the report should not be relied upon without further study for the purpose of evaluating different policy choices.