

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Transmission Planning Processes
Under Order No. 890

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PREPARED OPENING REMARKS OF DAVID A. WHITELEY,
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Technical Conference: Panel Two – Regional and Inter-regional Planning

My name is David Whiteley. I am currently engaged by a group of 23 Planning Authorities in the Eastern Interconnection to lead and coordinate the development of a new process that will conduct interconnection transmission analyses of the Eastern Interconnection.

I would like to thank the Commission and staff for this opportunity to provide some insight into the goals, objectives, and status of the development work on this new interconnection study process and to address questions on how this new process will fit with and support the existing regional planning processes in the Eastern Interconnection.

About 6 months ago, representatives from 17 Eastern Interconnection bulk power system planning authorities – those entities listed on the North American Electric Reliability Corporation compliance registry as Planning Authorities – came together to discuss the formation of a new collaborative process to perform transmission analyses with an interconnection scope.

Those discussions led to the concept of an Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative, or EIPC, that would have two primary purposes. The first purpose would be the development of interconnection-wide transmission system models and analyses consistent with

existing regional plans. This would ensure that existing projects already included in the regional plans could continue to completion. The second purpose would be the facilitation of transmission studies on an interconnection basis to address long term planning questions, such as those surrounding the integration of large amounts of renewable resources, in an open and transparent process in collaboration with industry stakeholders. The results of those analyses would then be available to inform policy makers and be used as input to the regional processes as inter-regional and multi-regional considerations for future regional plan development.

The Planning Authorities also recognized that fully coordinated interconnection transmission analyses could be done most effectively through a single collaborative approach that builds and expands on existing regional processes, leverages the existing planning expertise within those regional planning processes, and utilizes a coordinated roll-up of the existing regional plans as a starting point.

These early discussions were focused on establishing a structure and agreement among the Planning Authorities in the Eastern Interconnection to sponsor this work. That structure is now in place through an Agreement between the Planning Authorities on how they will work together to form an Analysis Team – the technical engine if you will – to perform the interconnection-wide power system analyses.

Presently, 23 Planning Authorities have signed the EIPC Agreement and are working together to advance the concept. The area covered by these Planning Authorities extends to approximately 95% of the peak customer demand in the Eastern Interconnection and includes Ontario, Canada.

The EIPC is also backing a proposal, recently submitted to DOE, for performing interconnection transmission analyses in the Eastern Interconnection as Topic A in Funding

Opportunity Announcement #68 - Interconnection-Level Analysis and Planning. The proposal to DOE includes the interconnection-wide reliability and economic analysis of stakeholder specified future scenarios to help inform policy makers and regulators about the transmission needs associated with different energy policies. The project narrative for the proposal, which has the support of all 23 Planning Authorities that signed the EIPC Agreement, is available for download from various regional planning websites.

And finally, the EIPC is continuing its development effort this fall. The EIPC recently announced it will hold an introductory webinar on October 13th and again October 16th for the industry to:

- Understand how the EIPC developed, its objectives and how stakeholders can participate;
- Learn more about the proposal to DOE for funding interconnection studies during the 2010 to 2013 timeframe and the important role stakeholders have in that process; and
- Provide an opportunity for initial input and comment on how a Stakeholder Steering Committee can be created and function to provide guidance and input to the interconnection study work.

In summary, the EIPC is committed to:

- An open and transparent process using a grass-roots approach to the roll-up of regional plans, consistent with FERC Order 890 principles to provide an integrated, interconnection-wide view of regionally developed plans and identify potential efficiencies; and
- To provide analysis, in response to expansion scenarios determined through an open stakeholder process, identifying transmission alternatives to assist state, provincial, regional or federal policy makers in their policy-making decisions.

In conclusion, the EIPC has come a long way from an original concept to an Agreement on how the planning expertise used on a regional basis can be expanded to an interconnection scope, and to initiate a stakeholder dialog to create an effective, open and transparent process, all in a 6 month period. On behalf of the 23 Planning Authorities currently participating in the EIPC, we look forward to continuing the development of the EIPC and beginning the initial interconnection analysis work.

Thank you.