

Navigating the Southeastern Regional Transmission Planning Process



A Guide for State Energy Officials

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Sustainable **FERC** Project

Policies for a Clean Electric Grid

WHAT IS THE SUSTAINABLE FERC PROJECT?

NGO COALITION

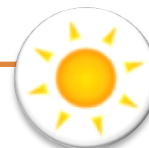
- Founded in 1996
- Housed in NRDC



Renewable
energy



Demand
response



Distributed
generation



Energy
efficiency

PROMOTES CLEAN ENERGY AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT POLICIES
AT FERC AND BEFORE REGIONAL GRID OPERATORS

Sustainable FERC Coalition Partners



Sustainable FERC Project

Policies for a Clean Electric Grid

Modernizing the Electrical Grid

Unique Characteristics of Electric Power Systems:

- Operation in Real Time
- Long-term, capital-intensive development.
- Dynamic Balancing

Quadrennial Energy Review (2015):

- Flexible grid system operations and demand response can enable renewables and reduce the need for new bulk-power-level infrastructure.
- Consistent measurement and evaluation of energy efficiency is essential for enhancing resilience and avoiding unnecessary costs and environmental impacts of new transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- States are the test beds for the evolution of the grid of the future.

Navigating SERTP: Four Steps

SERTP = Southeastern Regional Transmission Planning

Step 1. SERTP Background & History

Step 2. Annual Planning Cycle

Step 3. Stakeholder Participation

Step 4. Opportunities for Engagement

Step 1: SERTP Background & History

- The **Southeastern Regional Transmission Planning (SERTP)** process provides a planning forum for transmission providers to engage with stakeholders regarding transmission plans in the region.
 - Created in 2009 through a collaboration of six (6) original sponsor organizations.
 - Expanded in 2014 to its current size and scope in response to FERC Order 1000 (2011) and the “like-minded transmission planning philosophies” of the collaborating SERTP sponsors.
 - 14 states, roughly spanning 600 miles north to south and 1,100 miles east to west.
 - Largest transmission planning region in the Eastern Interconnect in terms of transmission line miles and customer peak demand.
 - Jurisdictional members of SERTP are regulated by FERC with respect to open access to transmission and regional transmission planning.

Step 1: SERTP Background & History



Associated Electric
Cooperative Inc.

Step 2. Annual Planning Cycle

- Develop annual regional transmission plan (10-year planning horizon) to address the transmission needs identified within the SERTP region.
 - Plan for and determine necessary improvements and expansions
 - Coordinate efforts and joint modeling between neighboring systems.
- Regional plan represents a “snapshot” and reflects the iterative nature of regional planning across planning years.
- SERTP has historically used state-regulated Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) processes as a starting point for defining transmission needs.
- However, FERC has recently directed the filing parties to undertake additional transmission planning actions in order to satisfy the requirements of Orders 890 and 1000.

Step 3. Stakeholder Participation

The stakeholder consultation process operates principally through the Regional Planning Stakeholders Group (RPSG). The RPSG meets on a quarterly basis and is designed to encompass representatives from each of eight sectors including:

- Transmission owners/operators
- Transmission Customers
- Cooperatives
- Municipal utilities
- Power marketers
- Generation owners/developers
- RTOs/ISOs
- DSM/ DSR

Step 4. Opportunities for Engagement

Four quarterly stakeholder meetings per year (open to all interested stakeholders):

- **First Quarter meeting** – establish Regional Planning Stakeholders’ Group (RPSG) for the year; stakeholder-requested economic planning studies selected; stakeholder training and discussion of methodology and criteria.
- **Second Quarter meeting** – preliminary Transmission Expansion Plan, modeling and coordination study activities presented for discussion; stakeholder opportunity to provide feedback as well as suggest alternatives and enhancements to the TEP for consideration.
- **Third Quarter meeting** – second RPSG meeting held; report on the results of the economic planning studies requested earlier in the year by the RPSG.
- **Fourth quarter meeting** – an annual Transmission Planning Summit and Assumptions Input meeting is held, at which the final results for the economic planning studies and an overview of the ten year TEP are discussed. The Assumptions Input Session provides a forum for discussions of data and model assumptions to be used in the following year’s planning cycle, and other issues that stakeholders may raise.

Thank you!

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