

## **EIPC Stakeholder Process Design for Non-DOE Grant Activities**

### **Background**

EIPC was developed in 2009 recognizing that an overview and analysis of regional transmission plans within the Eastern Interconnection would provide policy makers and regulators with current and technically sound information relating to potential transmission impacts and improvements associated with certain energy, economic and environmental objectives. Such an overview also provides an opportunity for policy makers and regulators to consider such information as they refine their policy objectives. Given that Phase I and the original scope of Phase II of the DOE-funded EIPC work have been completed, EIPC has considered the practical and useful work that it can now subsequently accomplish, and has developed a plan that details the work EIPC intends to complete over the next two years. The EIPC plan calls for creation of one or more power flow model roll-ups representing the entire Eastern Interconnection followed by evaluation (contingency analysis and/or transfer analysis) of the roll-up models in year one. Limited scenario studies that are determined with stakeholder input and based on the rolled-up models will be performed in year two.

As part of this plan, the EIPC Planning Authorities (PAs) note the distinction between the DOE-funded and the non DOE-funded work, but still recognize the continued desirability and importance of receiving stakeholder input, consistent with the new scope of the EIPC work. Therefore, the EIPC PAs have included the creation of a new open stakeholder process for non-DOE grant EIPC activities in the EIPC plan. The EIPC PAs are seeking feedback on this open stakeholder process over the next several months from all interested stakeholders, including the states' Eastern Interconnection State's Planning Council (EISPC). EIPC plans to implement the new stakeholder process in the latter half of 2013.

### **Overview of the New Stakeholder Process**

The EIPC PAs believe that the best approach for building on the considerable work of the interconnection-wide process and the states in forming the EISPC, while ensuring a regional focus, is for the stakeholder process to utilize the existing structure of the Order 890-approved processes of each of the regions to facilitate stakeholder input and PA interaction for non DOE-funded EIPC efforts. The PAs will work through the structure of their existing regional process to present roll-up models and results, receive stakeholder feedback and input, receive stakeholder comments and suggestions on specific scenarios to be studied, present the results of such scenario studies, and seek stakeholder feedback on the process and any reports that are drafted. While utilizing the benefit of this structure, it should be noted that the PAs are not modifying their existing 890 regional processes to include activities of the EIPC nor are they advocating such inclusion.

In addition to the stakeholder feedback through the regional processes, EIPC plans to hold two to three interconnection-wide stakeholder webinars each year. These webinars are primarily to

ensure transparency and coordination between the regions and to seek additional stakeholder input. The webinars would be open to all stakeholders that want to participate, including federal and state (EISPC) representatives. If necessary, interconnection-wide in-person stakeholder meetings could be held in place of or in addition to the webinars.

The PAs will serve as the primary conduit for stakeholder engagement at the regional level. As such, the PAs are responsible for:

- Ensuring that there is an appropriate means of communication from the stakeholders in each region to the PAs and from the PAs back to the stakeholders in each region;
- To the extent possible, coordinating with EISPC to ensure they have the opportunity to provide feedback through their normal processes;
- Developing potential scenarios to be presented to stakeholders in each region for input;
- Soliciting, organizing and reviewing input from stakeholders in their respective regions regarding the roll-up models and results, the potential scenarios developed by the PAs, and any other scenarios that stakeholders suggest be studied;
- Working with their state agencies to solicit input and feedback;
- To the extent there are disagreements among stakeholders, working with stakeholders through webinars (and meetings, if necessary) to provide transparency and resolve disagreements if possible;
- Resolving any differences among planning authorities as informed by stakeholder regional input;
- Posting chosen scenarios and explanations for why those scenarios were chosen; and
- Reporting back to each region interim and final study results and soliciting input from stakeholders in each region on the interim results, draft conclusions, and recommendations.

The EIPC PAs will determine which scenarios will be studied based on input from the results of the PA's interaction with stakeholders and guidance from the EIPC Executive Committee.

In addition, the stakeholders' role is as follows:

- Participating in the EIPC portion of regional processes and meetings
- Providing input on the roll-up models and results, the potential scenarios developed by the PAs, and any other scenarios that stakeholders suggest be studied
- Work with other stakeholders in determining which scenarios would be of most value
- Participate in interconnection-wide webinars (and meetings, if necessary) to provide input on the interim results, draft conclusions, and recommendations.