

Technical Bulletin

Business Practice Manual for Transmission Planning

Request Window Submissions- Large Generator Interconnection Procedure (LGIP) Network Upgrades

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ISSUE

Modifications to the Business Practice Manual (BPM) for Transmission Planning were proposed through the ISO BPM change management process and became effective on October 14, 2009. One of these modifications included language changes to the description of Large Generator Interconnection Process (LGIP) Network Upgrades that could be submitted through the Transmission Planning Process (TPP) Request Window.

At the TPP stakeholder meetings held on October 26-27, 2009, parties requested further explanation as to the ISO's proposed implementation of the following revised BPM language set forth in Section 2.1.2.1 on page 17:

The transmission owner of the system to which the generation project will be interconnected must submit reliability and network upgrades identified through the ISO Interconnection Studies developed in the ISO's Large Generator Interconnection Process (LGIP) or the Generation Interconnection Process Reform (GIPR) if such upgrades have not yet been included in a Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA) but the project proponent seeks approval of the upgrades in the Transmission Planning Process. Upgrades that will be considered for approval in the Transmission Planning Process must address a need that has been identified in LGIP/GIPR Phase 1 studies and can include projects that meet coordinated transmission planning needs as described in LGIP section 7.2.

Parties questioned whether this language imposed a requirement on Participating Transmission Owners (PTOs) to submit all Network Upgrades developed in the LGIP Interconnection Studies through the Request Window if such Network Upgrades meet a need identified in Phase 1 interconnection Studies. Parties have requested a description of the ISO's business practice with respect to the implementation of this modified language prior to the closing of the 2010 Request Window on November 30, 2009.

ISO BUSINESS PRACTICE

The BPM language does not impose a requirement on PTOs that all Network Upgrades developed in the LGIP be submitted into the Request Window.

Reliability and delivery Network Upgrades that are developed through the LGIP and are identified in a signed Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA) will be constructed on the time schedule in the agreement and do not require the approval by ISO management or the ISO Board of Governors that is required by transmission upgrades or additions evaluated in the TPP. These Network Upgrades, therefore, are not required to be submitted in the request window.

However, if there are a number of generation interconnection requests in the ISO queue that are located in close proximity to each other but are in various Interconnection Study stages, a PTO might be able to develop an efficiently-sized Network Upgrade that would be an optimal solution to meet the needs of the multiple generation interconnection requests in the same area, but which would not be eligible for identification in an LGIA at this time.

Accordingly, the BPM language was intended to provide a process by which PTO- proposed Network Upgrades developed in the LGIP, sized beyond the minimum network upgrades that are reflected in executed LGIA (s), could be considered in the TPP.¹ Network Upgrades meeting this description are subject to a determination by the ISO Board of Governors or ISO management that such proposed Network Upgrades meet transmission planning needs identified by the ISO in the TPP.

¹ It is also possible that Network Upgrades that are sized for generation beyond the needs of one LGIA could be triggered by the execution of multiple LGIAs, in which case the Network Upgrades would be constructed through according to the schedules in the LGIA(s) and need not be considered for approval in the TPP.