



Division of Planning Work Between RTO West and PTOs



Description

- The RTO has “ultimate responsibility” for the planning and expansion of the RTO Grid
- Who does the work?



Alternatives

- RTO Performs
 - The RTO performs all or the majority of the work
 - RTO planning staff could be located in key field offices



Alternatives

- RTO Coordinates
 - The PTOs perform all or the majority of the work subject to the oversight or coordination of the RTO



RTO Performs - Pros

- Could result in better planning decisions given wider geographic scope
- Provides one-stop shopping for planning of regional expansion projects
- Could result in efficiencies
- Work product of independent RTO might be more credible to market participants



RTO Performs - Cons

- PTOs have first-hand knowledge of their systems that will be expensive to replicate
- Requires a larger RTO staff



RTO Coordinates - Pros

- Preserves autonomy of PTOs and control over their facilities and cost recovery while allowing for broader regional coordination through RTO oversight
- Preserves and uses PTOs knowledge of their facilities



RTO Coordinates - Cons

- Perception of bias (less independence from merchant interests)
- Will require significant coordination between the RTO and PTOs



Questions/Comments