

Aggregation of Questions/Clarifications from Oct 17 EGP 2.0 Chat

Materials, including a recording of this meeting, are available here: <https://www.bpa.gov/energy-and-services/transmission/business-model>

BPA is providing a consolidation of the questions and clarifications asked in the Chat widget for the Oct. 17, 2024 public meeting on the Evolving Grid Project 2.0 update. Most questions will have updates at future events; however, where BPA was able to provide responses during the meeting, those responses have been included and attributed to the question.

The public is welcome to submit additional questions/clarifications on the materials to techforum@bpa.gov.

General Questions:

- How does BPA define “mature” generation?
 - An example of a difference between "mature" generation is a resource online versus a resource newly submitted to the GI queue.
- Are these projects been built to accommodate current TSRs? Does BP know the available capacity these projects will created?
 - many of these projects resulted from 2023 TSEP cluster study so in a way yes.
Overall capacity still being worked on
- As you go through these projects can you note which projects are fully funded and which ones require customer funding.
- Is there still time to look at new technology to reduce costs?
- Would you please provide a bit more detail on the impact of the proposed work at Hilltop?
- What is the primary reasoning behind the reactive upgrades in the Central Oregon region?
- Will the upgrades include reconductoring with advanced conductors? If not all, which?
- It looks like many of these projects are upgrading existing transmission capacity. Do any of these projects build new high voltage lines across new landscapes?
- When you talk about rebuilds, are you talking about using advanced conductors and if so which?
- Can you confirm when the "bigger" EG meeting you mentioned will be?
 - The next Evolving Grid public meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024.
- A # of these projects are enhancements/upgrades of existing lines. Is BPA applying this concept to new lines' ROWs & structures so they're most easily, quickly or cheaply upgraded in the future. For example, the new lines which add TTC to the Cross Cascades paths are very likely to need later additional E>>W capacity beyond the current planning horizon.
- Can BPA elaborate on the estimated timeline on when target completion dates will be provided for these projects? Will target completion dates be released per project or once all projects are fully scoped?

- What proportion of the recent network clusters' studied projects' ATC demand is being provided by BPA's in-house expansion plan? How do these additions affect the recent clusters' studies showing what network queue applicants would have to fund for service? How reliable now are the many applicants' lists of needed upgrades?
- Are all of these projects you discussed already reflected in the planning models including generation and interconnection study models?
- Do any of these evolving grid projects override planned upgrades identifies in past TSEPs?
 - @Reed - no, they don't override/replace. The new projects build on/expand on the previously identified projects.
- 100% agree Jake. I only wonder if purchase of long lead time items shouldn't be considered now since the BPA white book shows we need more in very near future.
- Have the studies taken into consideration the effect of the RAS schemes and how it affects the Path limits due to these projects?
- We support early procurement programmatically on long-lead time items to mitigate risks. Transformers, etc, are getting longer all the time, so need to act today to prevent have schedule lose 2 years when 2 years from now procurement timelines are longer.
- Great work on this front BPA. Thanks for the hustle to get these key regional projects in motion, prioritized, and resourced.

Process/Business Case Questions:

- How certain are these projects to move forward?
- Are all these projects already approved or What is the level of certainty that these projects will be approved for construction?
- When does Engineering/Design will start?
- Is the criteria on slide 4 the same one that BPA used for 1.0 projects or were there revisions?
- From BPA's perspective, are these projects of equal importance from a reliability perspective or are some more/less important?
- Can we get access to the report + base cases that shows the reasoning behind the transmission projects.
- When will EAs be started and how long before you know if a full EIS is necessary for the 287 kV line upgrade to 500 kV?

In-service Dates:

- Does BPA have any updated in service dates for these EGP 2.0 projects that were also identified in the 2023 cluster study?
- Is there a projected timeline on when construction would begin for any of the given projects listed?

Lower Columbia to Nevada-Oregon Border:

- Is the "Bonanza to NOB" project in addition to the 2022 Cluster Study identified Bonanza - Captain Jack 500kV line (BPA C. Oregon 500kV subgrid project that proposed energization 2033), or does it replace that project?
- What line(s) or sub is on the CA/NV side of this which the new BPA line is aiming to connect with? Is the S end of this new BPA line at Malin/Capt Jack? Would this line be part of the NWACI ownership group agreement?
- What would the 500kv line to NOB connect to?
- What line would link up from the South at the NOB?
- Is the Nevada NOB to Bonanza be considered as radial, expected impacts to COI or NWACI. Is BPA considering going through the WECC Project Coordination Process?
- Is the proposed line down to NOB proposed to be within the designated NIETC corridor?
- Could you discuss how the Lower Columbia to Nevada-Oregon Border line relates to the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Designation Process
- What is the rationale for a Bonanza - NOB 500 kV if it is not to connect to a new 500 kV line going to new load to the south?

EGP 1.0

- Have some of the EPG 1.0 timelines come in? I am specifically looking at cross cascades south
- Sorry just to clarify, my question on EGP 1.0 is just if things got moved up in time, my last recollection is that some of those dates were out until 2032
- Is there a map for the EGP 1.0 projects similar to slide 8 from this PPT?