

Line and Load Interconnection Procedures

BPA Transmission Business Practice

Version 4

TBD

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This business practice describes when a Line and Load Interconnection Request (LLIR) is required, the procedures and requirements for submitting an LLIR, how an LLIR is processed, and cost guidelines for studies and construction.

BPA identifies transmission needs at Points of Delivery to provide Long-Term Firm Point-To-Point Transmission Service (PTP) and Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) through processes outlined in the Line and Load Interconnection Procedures (LLIP) Business Practice. The requirements for submitting an LLIR differ for Transmission Customers seeking to utilize PTP and those seeking to utilize NITS.

BPA Policy Reference

- [Open Access Transmission Tariff \(OATT\)](#): Parts I, II, and III

For more information, visit the [BPA Transmission Business Practices webpage](#) or submit questions to techforum@bpa.gov

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A. Line and Load Interconnection Request (LLIR)

1. Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) Customers.
 - a. Transmission Customers intending to utilize NITS must submit an LLIR for the following:
 - i. A new Point of Delivery (POD) on BPA's Transmission System.
 - ii. Changes to an existing POD on BPA's Transmission System.
 - iii. 20 MW or more of new load at an existing POD, identified by the Transmission Customer in the 10-year "Projected Load" data in Section 2.E of the Line and Load Interconnection Request form.
 - iv. New Network Load at an existing POD.
 - v. Load growth or load transfers that are not New Network Load at an existing POD if BPA determines a submission is required through the Load and Resource Consolidated Data Collection Tool (LaRC) evaluation process.
2. Long-Term Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service (PTP) Customers.
 - a. Transmission Customers intending to utilize Long-Term Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service (PTP) must submit an LLIR for the following:
 - i. A new POD on BPA's Transmission System.
 - ii. Changes to an existing POD on BPA's Transmission System.
 - iii. Increases of MW of PTP to be delivered to an existing POD.
3. Cost responsibility for study and transmission facilities.
 - a. Cost responsibility for study of an LLIR.
 - i. Transmission Customers intending to utilize PTP related to an LLIR are responsible for the actual costs of BPA performing any required studies.
 - ii. Transmission Customers intending to utilize NITS related to an LLIR are responsible for the actual costs of BPA performing any required studies when:
 1. An LLIR is required for New Network Load; or
 2. An LLIR is not for a New Network Load but the Transmission Customer has identified the request as "Exploratory" or "Preliminary" in Section 2.A of the Line and Load Interconnection Request form.
 - a. An LLIR is considered "Exploratory" when a utility customer is seeking an informational study.
 - b. An LLIR is considered "Preliminary" when a utility customer is seeking study of a load that it has taken some action to develop, such as initiating discussions with an end user, but has not committed to developing.

- iii. Transmission Customers intending to utilize NITS related to an LLIR are not responsible for the costs of study in instances not covered in Section A.3.a.ii above.
- b. Cost responsibility for transmission facilities required for an LLIR.
 - i. The [BPA Facility Ownership and Cost Assignment Guidelines](#) document provides details regarding cost assignment associated with new or replacement transmission facilities.
 - 1. Amounts that a Transmission Customer must advance for Network Upgrades may be eligible for credits against transmission bills as outlined in the [Transmission Credits for Non-Generation Interconnection Network Upgrades Business Practice](#).
 - ii. Transmission Customers intending to utilize PTP related to an LLIR are required to cover the costs of direct-assigned transmission facilities and advance funds needed for Network Upgrades.
 - iii. Transmission Customers intending to utilize NITS related to an LLIR are required to cover the costs of direct-assigned transmission facilities and may be required to advance all or a portion of the funds needed for Network Upgrades.
 - 1. BPA will discuss with the Transmission Customer the nature of the load needs driving the upgrade and the associated level of risk (including factors such as the size of the load, load diversity, and the project cost estimate), prior to determination of the Transmission Customer’s advance funding obligation.
- 4. The table below is a summary of when an LLIR is required and the cost responsibility for study and advance funding of Network Upgrades.

Circumstance	LLIR	Study Cost Responsibility	Advanced Funding of Network Upgrades
PTP	Yes	Transmission Customer	Transmission Customer
NITS: New Network Load	Yes	Transmission Customer	BPA/Transmission Customer
NITS: all other	Yes/No	BPA/Transmission Customer	BPA/Transmission Customer
Point of Convenience ¹	Yes	Transmission Customer	Transmission Customer

¹ See the [BPA Facility Ownership and Cost Assignments Guidelines](#) document.

B. Submitting an LLIR

- 1. Prior to submitting an LLIR, an entity must become a BPA Transmission Customer. See the [Becoming a Transmission Customer webpage](#) for more information.
- 2. Transmission Customers submit an LLIR by emailing a completed Line and Load Interconnection Request form (BPA F 6420.25e) to interconnection@bpa.gov. This form is available on the BPA [Line and Load Interconnection \(LLI\) webpage](#).
 - a. Enter “LLIR” in the Subject Line of the email to facilitate processing.

- b. The form must be completed and signed to be valid.
- c. BPA will not accept an LLIR submitted to email addresses other than interconnection@bpa.gov.

C. Processing an LLIR

1. Within five (5) Business Days following receipt of an LLIR, BPA will acknowledge receipt of the Transmission Customer's email.
2. Within 15 Business Days following receipt of an LLIR, BPA will provide the Transmission Customer with notification of any deficiencies in the LLIR.
 - a. The Transmission Customer will have 15 Business Days from BPA's notice of deficiencies to resolve the deficiencies.
 - b. If the Transmission Customer fails to resolve the deficiencies within 15 Business Days from BPA's notice, BPA will cease processing the LLIR and the Transmission Customer will need to restart the LLIR submission procedures for any additional consideration of an LLIR by BPA.
3. BPA will schedule a kickoff meeting between BPA and the Transmission Customer within 30 Calendar Days of receiving a completed LLIR.
 - a. During the kickoff meeting, BPA and the Transmission Customer will discuss which study steps are required.
4. If upon conclusion of the kickoff meeting the proposed LLIR is found to be invalid or not technically feasible at the time of the request, BPA will withdraw the LLIR from the interconnection queue.

D. Queue Status

1. Queue position of an LLIR is set by the date and time BPA receives the LLIR via email as specified in Section B, Submitting an LLIR.
2. BPA will post the queue position of an LLIR, along with relevant information contained in the LLIR, in the interconnection request queue document located on the BPA [Interconnection webpage](#).
 - a. BPA will update the "status" field in the interconnection request queue as the LLIR proceeds through the process.
3. BPA will change the status of an LLIR to WITHDRAWN in the interconnection request queue and provide the Transmission Customer with notice of the withdrawal if:
 - a. The Transmission Customer notifies BPA of its withdrawal of the LLIR;
 - b. The LLIR is withdrawn due to a Transmission Customer's failure to meet deadlines specified in this BP, including a Transmission Customer's failure to execute and fund an agreement within the required timeframes;
 - c. The Transmission Customer chooses to proceed with a material change to an LLIR as specified in Section E, Material Change Analysis Request; or
 - d. The LLIR is found to be invalid or not technically feasible at any time.

E. Material Change Analysis Request

1. Any change to information pertinent to an LLIR, contained in the LLIR form, study reports, or meeting notes, requires BPA approval.
 - a. A change that BPA deems to be a material change requires the Transmission Customer to submit a new LLIR to proceed with the change.
2. To request a change to information in an existing LLIR, the Transmission Customer must email an amended [Line and Load Interconnection Request form](#) (BPA F 6420.25e) to interconnection@bpa.gov and include:
 - a. Enter "LLIR Change Request" and the queue number (L#####) of the applicable request in the subject line of the email to facilitate processing.
 - b. The amended LLIR form must be completed and signed to be valid.
 - c. Section 4 of the LLIR form must include a detailed description of the proposed change to the interconnection and all information necessary to support BPA's evaluation of the proposed change.
 - i. BPA may require the Transmission Customer to provide additional information if necessary to evaluate a proposed change.
3. Within 30 Calendar Days of receipt of a request for change, BPA will endeavor to assess the change request and notify Transmission Customer of whether the proposed change is:
 - a. Nonmaterial; or
 - b. A material change.
 - i. A material change is a change that impacts the cost or timing of other LLIRs, including impacts to the schedule of energization of other LLIRs, or requires the LLIR at issue to be restudied.
 - ii. The following are always deemed material changes:
 1. Increases to the originally requested load.
 2. Change of the POD, including a change in voltage class, after a single POD has been established in the study process.
 3. Decreases in power factor.
4. Within 15 Calendar Days after BPA sends the determination of whether a change is nonmaterial or a material change, the Transmission Customer shall provide BPA notice via email to interconnection@bpa.gov to either rescind or proceed with the requested change.
 - a. If such notice is not received within 15 Calendar Days after BPA's determination is sent, the request for the proposed change will be deemed rescinded.
 - b. If the change is deemed a material change, in order to proceed, the Transmission Customer must withdraw the existing LLIR and submit a new LLIR.

F. Line and Load Interconnection Feasibility Study (LLI FES)

1. Upon determining that conducting an LLI FES is necessary, BPA will provide the Transmission Customer the following within 30 Calendar Days of the kickoff meeting:
 - a. A notice of intent (NOI) to study at BPA's cost; or
 - b. An LLI FES Agreement and non-binding, good-faith estimate of the costs to complete the LLI FES.
2. Within 15 Business Days of receiving an LLI FES Agreement, the Transmission Customer must provide BPA:
 - a. An executed LLI FES Agreement; and
 - b. A deposit for the LLI FES equal to the estimated cost of study.
3. BPA will endeavor to complete the LLI FES within 180 Calendar Days of when BPA issues the NOI or receives the executed and funded LLI FES Agreement.
4. Upon completion of the LLI FES, BPA will provide the Transmission Customer with the LLI FES report.
 - a. Within 30 Calendar Days of providing the LLI FES report BPA will schedule an LLI FES review meeting.

G. Line and Load Interconnection System Impact Study (LLI SIS)

1. If an LLI FES is conducted, the Transmission Customer must provide BPA notice of a single POD for the LLIR within 15 Calendar Days of the LLI FES review meeting.
2. If conducting an LLI FES is found unnecessary, the Transmission Customer must provide BPA notice of a single POD for the LLIR within 15 Calendar Days of the kickoff meeting.
3. BPA will provide the Transmission Customer the following within 30 Calendar Days of the LLI FES review meeting or the kickoff meeting if conducting an LLI FES was found unnecessary:
 - a. An NOI to study at BPA's cost; or
 - b. An LLI SIS Agreement and a non-binding, good-faith estimate of the costs to complete the LLI SIS.
4. Within 15 Business Days of receiving an LLI SIS Agreement, the Transmission Customer must provide BPA:
 - a. An executed LLI SIS Agreement; and
 - b. A deposit for the LLI SIS equal to the estimated cost of study.
5. BPA will endeavor to complete the LLI SIS within 180 Calendar Days from when BPA issues the NOI or receives the executed and funded LLI SIS Agreement.

6. Upon completion of the LLI SIS, BPA will provide the Transmission Customer with the LLI SIS report.
 - a. Within 30 Calendar Days of providing the LLI SIS report BPA will schedule an LLI SIS review meeting.

H. Line and Load Interconnection Facilities Study (LLI FAS)

1. If conducting an LLI FES and LLI SIS are found unnecessary, the Transmission Customer must provide BPA notice of a single POD for the LLIR within 15 Calendar Days of the kickoff meeting.
2. BPA will endeavor to provide the Transmission Customer the following within 30 Calendar Days of the LLI SIS review meeting or the kickoff meeting if an LLI FES and LLI SIS are deemed not necessary:
 - a. An NOI to study at BPA's cost;
 - b. An LLI FAS Agreement and a non-binding, good-faith estimate of the costs and timeline to complete the LLI FAS; and
 - c. Notification that an environmental study is required, if applicable.
3. Within 15 Business Days of receiving an LLI FAS Agreement, the Transmission Customer must provide BPA:
 - a. An executed LLI FAS Agreement; and
 - b. A deposit for the LLI FAS equal to the estimated cost of study.
4. Upon completion of the LLI FAS, BPA will provide the Transmission Customer with the LLI FAS report.
 - a. Within 30 Calendar Days of providing the LLI FAS report BPA will schedule an LLI FAS review meeting.
5. Upon completion of the LLI FAS, BPA will refund any remaining deposits, if applicable.

I. Post-Study Agreements

1. BPA will endeavor to offer the Transmission Customer an agreement to design, procure, or build transmission facilities and equipment identified as necessary in the LLIR study process within six (6) months of the LLI FAS review meeting.
 - a. Agreement type, such as a Preliminary Engineering Agreement (PEA), Engineering and Procurement (E&P), or Construction/General Agreement, will be determined by scope of the interconnection and estimated schedule.
 - b. BPA will identify funding required with an agreement.
 - c. Any environmental or cultural compliance obligations will be outlined in the agreement.
2. No later than 30 Business Days after receipt of an agreement, the Transmission Customer must return the executed agreement and any required funding.

3. BPA will only offer a post-study agreement to a Transmission Customer intending to utilize PTP if that Transmission Customer has an active and valid Transmission Service Request (TSR) that corresponds to the LLIR.
4. Transmission Customers are required to adhere to BPA's [Technical Requirements for Interconnection to the BPA Transmission Grid](#).

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