

## Oct. 19, 2026, GAT workshop: RAPID and SPRINT Open Season Administrator's Opening Remarks

Thank you for carving out a few minutes to allow me to open today's customer workshop. It is both an honor and an awesome responsibility to lead BPA at this pivotal moment for the industry.

Before the Transmission team dives into the details, I wanted to spend 5 or 10 minutes to briefly describe this initiative and, just as importantly, how it fits into everything else going on at Bonneville.

In Transmission, as many of you know, Bonneville maintains three separate queues—one for generation, one for other transmission service requests like point-to-point (which makes up nearly half of BPA's annual transmission revenue), and one for our retail utilities and large loads.

On generator interconnection, BPA, like many others, long adhered to FERC's first-come first-served process that encouraged people to place as many options on the board as possible. FERC Order 2023 acknowledged the failings of the serial queue and the speculative nature of requests. Even before I arrived at Bonneville, the team had been working to rectify this situation.

BPA is in the process even now of clearing a backlogged generator interconnection queue through implementation of the reforms adopted in TC-25. This is long overdue.

Second, on Transmission Service Requests, BPA is nearing the end of the settlement process on its ongoing proceeding, TC-27. Let me avoid commenting on this process since it is a live proceeding, other than to say what success looks like is the provision of interim service that represents a believable deposit on an end state of firm service. I trust what is resolved in that proceeding will be commercially attractive to off takers.

That brings us to today, which addresses a topic within the third queue. Just like the other queues, here we have faced another backlog—this time driven by large load interconnections and the data center industry.

This significant backlog requires the introduction of an efficient solution at a fast pace. We are consequently proposing two things.

First, what we are appropriately calling SPRINT. This process will identify headroom at important buses on our system where transmission capacity can be managed through curtailable service. This non-firm service will be made available in limited quantities at certain locations and, if those offers are oversubscribed, we will select the configuration of winners who represent the highest value to BPA's other ratepayers.

We are also developing a fast-track interconnection path for those large loads that bring their own co-located generation. We call it Paired Load and Integrated Generation, or PLAID.

For large loads taking advantage of these new opportunities, we want to make sure any non-firm service is a *bridge* to firm service—not a bridge to nowhere.



That is why we are providing clear guidance on BPA's future state. This future state would replace the typical queue process with a Transmission Open Season. It would utilize transmission projects identified through the Proactive Planning program to enable a path to firm service, while creating a feedback loop for the Open Season's costs to large loads. Our initial thinking is that large loads taking non-firm service would have a priority spot among other large loads in this Open Season, in view of the revenue they had already contributed to BPA's other ratepayers through non-firm service.

These concepts are housed in the new initiative BPA has launched, **Rapid Access Products & Interconnection Delivery**, or RAPID. I want to thank the team members who have put in hard work and long hours on this to date.

*Big picture:* If we are successful in this proceeding it will increase our grid utilization to meet the broader needs of the region and the nation. The non-firm transmission service we are proposing to offer would translate into incremental revenue, lowering rate pressures on existing customers.

To be clear, BPA has no legal authority to directly serve data centers. It is the retail consumer-owned utilities who make up the BPA footprint, as well as investor-owned utilities in the region, who serve in that capacity. I have heard from many in the public power community that they continue to want to attract data centers to their service territories—something that makes the BPA footprint better situated than other places in the country for the kind of positive-sum, win-win outcomes that BPA is excited to explore today.

I look forward to the workshop today and the interactions among BPA staffers and customers. I hope we can get a lot of information to you in these few hours. And with that, I will turn it over to the Transmission team.

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