



Eugene Water & Electric Board

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EWEB Comments on the October 19, 2026, Grid Access Transformation Workshop

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Submitted via techforum@bpa.gov

EWEB appreciates BPA staff and the significant effort that has gone into developing these new proposals, and we look forward to working with you as we move toward solutions that meet the needs of BPA, its customers, and the region.

On BPA's request for feedback & accelerated timeline

In our previous comments EWEB encouraged BPA to maintain momentum and sense of urgency in the GAT initiative. We asked BPA to be creative, efficient, and willing to challenge established processes in pursuing the vision of making meaningful, effective, and lasting improvements to how BPA plans and delivers transmission service. We suggested where successful approaches already exist within BPA, other utilities, or the broader industry, BPA should consider opportunities to benchmark and replicate them.

Thank you for your responsiveness. We appreciate that BPA is building on successful concepts and programs being implemented around the country, and we understand the need to move quickly. We want to partner with BPA to find creative solutions that achieve all of our interests.

We do have concerns about the proposed pace of BP-27R and TC-27R. The one-day workshop wasn't sufficient to cover the material presented. A one-week turnaround for comments doesn't leave enough time to engage with BPA staff, seek alignment with trade organizations, or fully review the proposals within our own organization. As a result, it's challenging for us to provide informed feedback.

We encourage BPA to allow enough time for its own staff to study the proposals and share their potential downstream impacts on customers, existing transmission service, and the region. We also suggest a more robust stakeholder process before the ex parte period begins. Building shared clarity up front would help staff and customers alike and would make the formal proceedings more productive and streamlined.

- BPA should add a minimum of two more pre-proceeding workshops and extend the timeline for BP-27R and TC-27R to provide a runway for establishing common understanding and refinement of the details and mechanics of the proposals.

Impact of RAPID programs on GAT Initiative Goals & existing products

The workshop was kicked off with a summary that BPA staff are feeling pressed to move on administration policy directives around positioning the United States to win the AI race while protecting ratepayers. On slide 22, the SPRINT goal is to, "Get up to ~5 GW of data centers onto the BPA 500 kV grid as quickly as possible". Staff explained that "Highest value proposals" will be given priority but limited criteria have been offered to define "high value". This raises questions:

Rely on us.

- Will BPA be prioritizing data centers over other large loads that may be able to ramp up quickly and offer significant economic development for communities?
- How will bringing on up to ~5 GW of new loads impact existing products initially, and as those loads are offered full plans of service? We are particularly interested in understanding on impacts to the NITS products.
- In the August workshop, BPA proposed GAT initiative goals including Timely Plan of Service, Most Ready, and Enabling Service. Is BPA proposing to prioritize these goals towards data centers or will they apply equally to all customers?

Our recurring theme: Provide EWEB's customers with a roadmap to service

In the workshop BPA staff suggested that customers propose candidate sites for SPRINT though it remains unclear if site selection will be influenced by customer input. We are unsure if we have a good candidate site but are compelled to share an example.

An existing semiconductor campus is actively listed for sale in our community. This industrial property with 1.2 million square feet of buildings, a dedicated substation, and room to expand, employed 1,400 people at its peak operation. It has been idle since 2009 and would effectively be a "new" load. Speed to power is of high interest to EWEB and both the seller and prospective buyers, with any plan to power being a following interest. We have had numerous inquiries for different uses with a broad spectrum of capacity requests and have been working through BPA's Line and Load Interconnection Procedures at this site since 2024.

In support of our community and economic growth, we want a roadmap and timeline with clarity beyond "many years" to service. We recognize we are not unique either with having what looks like a visually attractive economic development opportunity that may take years to energize, or with having the desire to be able to provide clarity on what that energization journey and timeline will look like for the future owner.

Conclusion

To reiterate our August comments, we support a transformational GAT initiative and appreciate the work staff has done to bring forward these concepts. We believe the region will have more success if BPA partners through deeper public engagement in BP-27R and TC-27R. We are concerned that in pursuing highly accelerated proceedings, rate and tariff changes could lead to unbalanced outcomes and unintended consequences.

EWEB looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with BPA as these concepts are developed and implemented.

Respectfully,

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