Load Area Reinforcement Studies (LARS) Overview Customer Meeting

June 15, 2026

Objectives

- Provide a high-level overview of:
  - Portland Area Reinforcement Study (PARS) pilot background
  - Load Area Reinforcement Study (LARS) process
- Share BPA's current direction and considerations
- Seek customer feedback

PARS Pilot Background

- PARS was developed as a collaborative planning initiative intended to improve visibility for both BPA and customers into localized load growth and long-range reinforcement needs.
- Participants:
  - Clatskanie PUD
  - Columbia River PUD
  - Forest Grove Light & Power
  - McMinnville Water & Light
  - Portland General Electric

Key PARS Elements

- Early and ongoing customer engagement
- Collaborative discussions on localized load growth trends
- Increased transparency into potential future reinforcement needs
- Improved long-range planning visibility for participating customers
- Joint ownership of the results between BPA and participants

The broader, sustainable LARS process is informed by lessons, observations, and customer engagement approaches from the PARS pilot.

Purpose of LARS

- LARS is intended to assess forecasted 20-year load area and system reinforcement needs.
  - Improve evaluation of customer localized forecasts within BPA service areas and affected systems
  - Early and ongoing customer engagement
  - Collaborative discussions on localized load growth trends
  - Increased transparency into potential future reinforcement needs
  - Improved long-range planning visibility
  - Improved visibility of mutually beneficial expansion projects across multiple customers.

Benefits for Customers

- Enhanced long-term planning visibility
- Earlier visibility into potential longer-term reinforcement needs
- Improved understanding of localized load growth, reinforcement needs, and system constraints
- Supports more informed customer longer-term planning and investment decisions

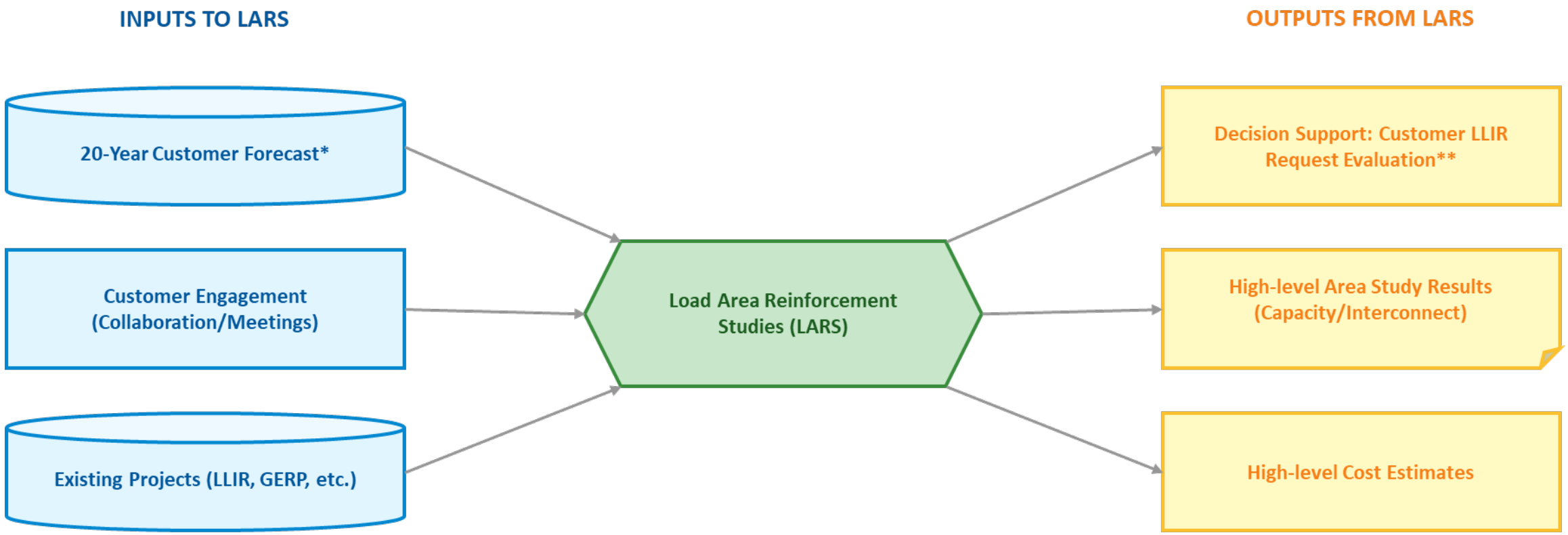
Benefits for BPA

- Enables visibility into localized load growth pressures
- Allows for longer-range visibility using BPA's comprehensive load area reinforcement study approach
- Supports early collaborative planning discussions regarding potential longer-term system needs
- Improves transparency between BPA and customers regarding future system considerations

What LARS Is and Is Not

- LARS IS:
  - A collaborative planning and study process
  - A source of planning visibility and insight
  - An opportunity for customer engagement and transparency
- LARS IS NOT:
  - A project approval mechanism
  - A guarantee of reinforcement projects
  - A replacement for existing BPA Line and Load Interconnection Request process
  - An assessment of Long-Term Firm Transmission Availability

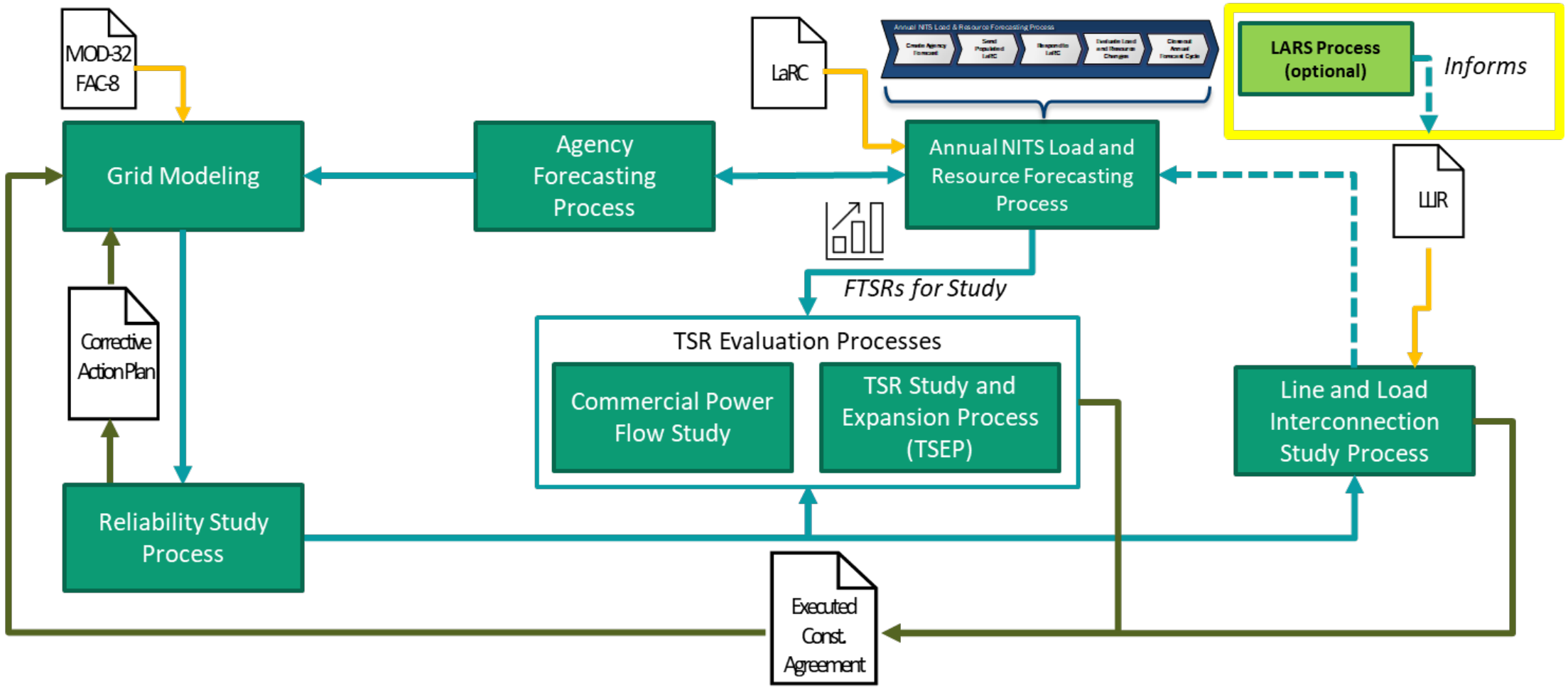
LARS Process Diagram



* Note: Customer provided forecasts are separate from the LaRC and Agency Forecast.

**Note: LARS provides analytical information that can inform future Line and Load Interconnection Requests (LLIRs).

Planning Process Overview (does not include proactive planning)



LARS Area Evaluation and Next Steps

- The initial five areas BPA is currently considering represent the starting point for a broader system-wide evaluation.
- BPA will determine the areas of study and the sequence in which studies are conducted.
- Customers can have their prospective Loads studied via LLIR process if their area is not being studied under LARS.

Areas Currently Under Consideration

- Central Oregon
  - *Rapid load growth and evolving system reinforcement needs*
- Eugene
  - *Long term plans and proposed development near Thurston*
- Salem/Albany
  - *Rapid load growth and potential expansion associated with West of Cascades South*
- Southeast Idaho
  - *Rapid load growth and reliability concerns identified through BPA's annual system assessment*
- Tri-Cities
  - *Rapid load growth and known transmission congestion in both operations and planning horizons*

Customer Role During the LARS Study Process

- Engagement during study scope discussions
- Collaboration regarding localized planning considerations
- Feedback on study assumptions and inputs
- Ongoing dialogue throughout the study process

LARS Study Cost Considerations

- Participating customers should expect to incur some cost responsibility
  - BPA is required to recover all costs
- BPA is evaluating a study cost methodology that supports:
  - A repeatable and sustainable longer-term process that makes efficient use of BPA and consultant resources
- Cost allocations considered:
  - Only one customer will pay for all the area local area study costs and will not be spread to other customers
  - Entry Deposit for local area study with a true up based on your pro rata MW share
  - Cost per MW based for a local area study with no true up
  - Spread all local area Study Costs to the Network
  - Other Ideas?

Customer Feedback Requested

1. Perspectives on the five areas currently under consideration
2. Whether there are additional localized load areas BPA should consider
3. Customer perspectives on localized load growth trends and future planning considerations
4. Perspectives on customer study costs

BPA Next Steps

1. Evaluate customer feedback
2. Continue engagement regarding LARS area selection
3. Continued customer study cost methodology evaluation

Customer Next Steps / Requested Customer Actions

1. Provide feedback on areas under consideration and study cost perspectives
2. Submit additional localized load area considerations, if applicable
3. Submit feedback via Tech Forum and copy your AE by 6/26/26

QUESTIONS