



Big Bend Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Submitted electronically via techforum@bpa.gov

John Hairston
Administrator and CEO
Bonneville Power Administration

Re: Comments in Response to BPA's April 21, 2025, Transmission Planning Reform Workshop

Big Bend Electric Cooperative is a long time Network Integration Transmission Service ("NT") customer of the Bonneville Power Administration. I am writing to express my support for the process BPA is conducting to develop reforms to its transmission planning process which are very necessary to address the transmission service needs of its customers.

Additionally, as an active participant with both NRU and the NT Customer Group, I am also commenting in support of the comments submitted by both groups. Specifically, I wanted to note my support for BPA's commitment to providing "on-demand" transmission service, including ensuring firm transmission service on the existing system for load growth that is deemed "trended". I would like to underscore a point that "trended" should include all organic growth such as that arising from urban sprawl from one utility's service area to the adjacent utility's area. While we understand more work has to be done to establish the definition and policies for "non-trended" load growth in light of BPA's obligation to plan to serve all NT forecasted load and resources, we appreciate BPA's explicit acknowledgment of the planning obligation it has under its tariff for NT customers, which include many of BPA's preference power customers.

In addition, we support BPA's proposed long-term, 20 year, scenario-based transmission planning process. Although we await additional detail on this approach, we believe that planning the transmission system based on the forecasted load of BPA's transmission customers is an improvement over the status quo and will more likely identify cost effective transmission upgrades necessary to ensure reliable load service over the long-term horizon.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Big Bend appreciates Bonneville's collaborative approach to meeting the region's transmission needs and we look forward to continuing to work with you and your team going forward.

Sincerely,

Christina Wyatt
Manager of Power Supply