

BPA's Pause of Select Planning Processes Q&A

(updated May 1, 2025)

1. Why is BPA conducting this pause?

Currently, BPA's transmission service queue is 65 GW of unstudied service requests – exceeding the projected total regional load for 2034 in the Pacific Northwest. At this time, it is clear that BPA's planning processes require modification to best serve our customers and meet their resource and load service needs. A pause allows BPA to re-evaluate these processes and explore new solutions with customers to ensure we meet their needs in the most cost-efficient and effective manner.

2. Will BPA hold a 2025 TSEP Cluster Study?

No, BPA has paused its 2025 TSEP Cluster Study. However, transmission service requests submitted within the 2025 TSEP Cluster Study submission window, which closed 12:00 PM PDT on August 15, 2024, will still be processed and eligible for the next planned TSEP Cluster Study.

3. Will all transmission service requests (TSRs) be impacted?

No, only a subset of TSRs will be impacted. Others will continue to be processed.

Not Impacted

- TSRs that require service on the Southern or Montana Interties are not impacted and will continue to be processed and awarded service or study agreements as applicable.
- Point to Point (PTP) Deferral TSRs and Renewal TSRs will not be impacted. PTP Renewal and Deferral TSR Competition will not be impacted.
- TSRs that fall into BPA's Short Term Automated Market will not be impacted.

Impacted

- TSRs and associated data exhibits submitted by 12:00 PM PDT on August 15, 2024, will continue to be processed; however, if BPA determines additional capacity is required to enable offering service – including TSRs with *de minimis* impacts – transmission service will not be offered at this time.
- TSRs and associated data exhibits submitted after 12:00 PM PDT on August 15, 2024, will not be processed at this time.
- TSR Study Agreements will not be offered at this time and, therefore, new transmission infrastructure projects to satisfy TSRs will not be identified until the next TSEP Cluster Study.

4. What about long-term redirect request TSRs?

Redirects that have no incremental impact may be granted on a case-by-case basis. If a redirect creates an incremental impact on the network (even *de minimis* impacts), the redirect will not be offered at this time.

5. Which Load and Resource Forecasts and Closeout (LaRCs) processes are impacted by this pause?

Load and Resource Forecasts submitted before 12:00 PM PDT on August 15, 2024, will be processed. LaRCs submitted after 12:00 PM PDT August 15, 2024, will not be processed.

Customers will still be required to submit their Load and Resource Forecasts in 2025 to inform BPA's other planning processes (e.g., annual reliability system assessment, conducted to ensure NERC compliance).

6. Will this pause affect TSRs that have already been approved?

No, all TSRs previously approved will continue to proceed as planned.

7. Will the pause impact the 23 transmission infrastructure projects as identified in EGP 1.0 and 2.0, totaling an estimated \$5 billion, that BPA has proposed to move forward with?

No. BPA will continue moving those projects through our existing processes. We will continue to provide updates about those projects online via the [Evolving Grid web site](#) and in public customer workshops.

8. Please clarify how LaRCs will continue to be used and what applicable deadlines are in effect?

LaRCs provide information for multiple processes which are being impacted differently by the pause and reform:

- a) The LaRC (and LLIR, when necessary) provides BPA's load forecasting group and reliability study group with the annual information BPA needs to ensure that it can accurately model the system base load. There is no impact to this annual need and BPA continues to utilize the LaRC (and LLIR, when necessary) for this purpose.
- b) The LaRC forecasts (and LLIRs, when needed) are necessary to ensure BPA can meet annual NERC compliance requirements. There is no impact to this annual need and BPA continues to utilize the LaRC for this purpose.

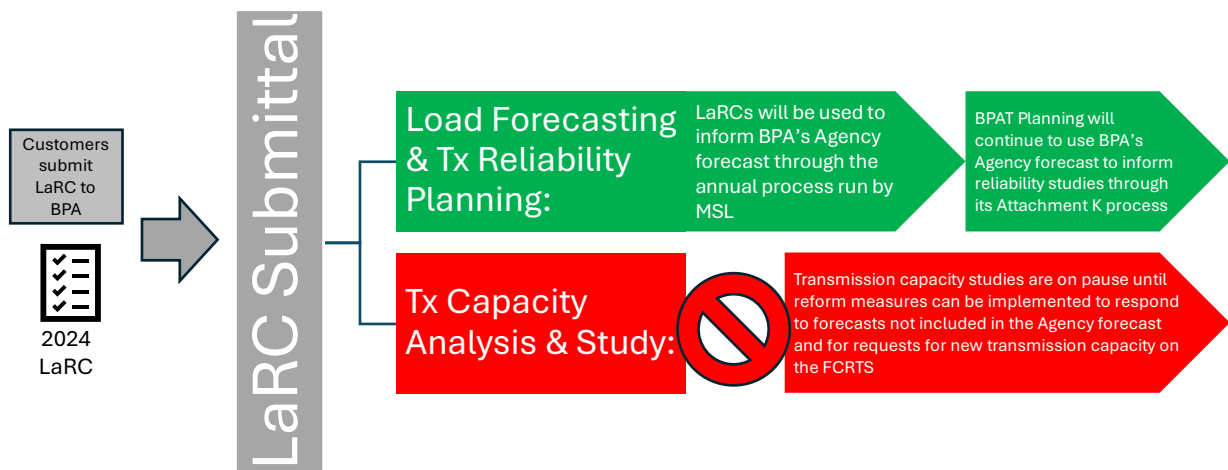
As a result of these two points, a majority of NITS load is and will continue to be accounted for via BPA's system load assessments (vis a vis Attachment K process).

- c) The LaRC (and LLIR, when necessary) helps identify potential transmission needs that might require a study. Where transmission needs are identified, at this time those LaRCs, in the form of an FTSR, are added to BPA's long-term transmission queue and subject to applicable study requirements to process and respond to all requests and forecasts in that queue. At this time, due to the planning pause and reform initiative, certain LaRCs will be impacted for this transmission study process only. However, LLIRs will continue to be processed during the pause.
- d) LaRCs received between 8/15-9/30 requiring a study would not have been included the 2025 TSEP cluster study – they would have had to wait for the next

study window. BPA is considering how to better align LaRC submission deadlines with BPA study timelines.

In summary, the LaRC continues to be a requirement as BPA will continue to utilize the load forecasts annually; however, where evaluation of the LaRC identifies transmission congestion, those transmission requirements will be subject to the transmission planning pause and reform at this time. Refer to the Q&A #5 for additional clarity on timing of LaRC submittals and resulting process impacts.

LaRC 2024 Submittal



Please visit the [Transmission Planning Reform website](#) for additional information.