

# **CHARTER OF THE TRANSMISSION EXPANSION PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE**

## **I. Introduction**

WECC and its members have determined that WECC has a role in meeting the region's need for regional economic transmission planning and analyses by providing impartial and reliable data, public process leadership, and analytical tools and services. The activities of WECC in this area will be guided and overseen by a new board-level committee, the Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC).

## **II. Responsibilities**

TEPPC's three main functions include: (1) overseeing database management, (2) providing policy and management of the planning process, and (3) guiding the analyses and modeling for Western Interconnection economic transmission expansion planning. These functions compliment but do not replace the responsibilities of WECC members and stakeholders to develop and implement specific expansion projects.

A. TEPPC will organize and steer WECC regional economic transmission planning activities. Specific responsibilities include:

- steering decisions on key assumptions and the process by which economic transmission expansion planning data are collected, coordinated and validated;
- selecting and overseeing the work of a facilitator for western interconnection economic transmission expansion planning and modeling efforts;
- approving study plans, including study scope, objectives, priorities, overall methods/approach, deliverables, and schedules;
- steering decisions on analytical methods and on selecting and implementing production cost and other models found necessary;
- ensuring the economic transmission expansion planning process is impartial, transparent, properly executed and well communicated;
- ensuring that regional experts and stakeholders participate, including state/provincial energy offices, regulators, resource and transmission developers, load serving entities, environmental and consumer advocate stakeholders through a stakeholder advisory group;
- supporting DOE's initiative to evaluate transmission congestion and identify national interest transmission corridors in order to maximize the utility of DOE's work for the Western Interconnection;
- steering report writing and other communications that include communications between the TEPPC and the sub-regional planning groups;
- advising the WECC Board on policy issues affecting economic transmission expansion planning;
- recommending budgets for WECC's economic transmission expansion planning process;

- organizing and coordinate activities with sub-regional planning processes;
  - approving recommendations to improve the economic transmission expansion planning process.
- B. TEPPC analyses and studies will focus on plans with west-wide implications and include a high level assessment of congestion and congestion costs. The analyses and studies will also evaluate the economics of resource and transmission expansion alternatives on a regional, screening study basis. Resource and transmission alternatives may be targeted at relieving congestion, minimizing and stabilizing regional production costs, diversifying fuels, achieving renewable resource and clean energy goals, or other purposes. Alternatives may draw from state energy plans, integrated resource plans, large regional expansion proposals, sub-regional plans and studies, and other sources such as individual control areas if relevant in a regional context.
- C. The TEPPC will present its findings to the Board for comment and approval. Data, analyses and findings will be provided to members, sub-regional study groups, and policy makers for further consideration. Members and sub-regional planning groups will perform analyses and studies to define, evaluate, prioritize and advocate specific projects as they choose.
- D. TEPPC will, in consultation with stakeholders and technical experts, adopt an analytical methodology and modeling tools for WECC's regional economic transmission expansion planning.
- E. TEPPC will conduct the planning process in an impartial, inclusive, and transparent manner that ensures broad stakeholder participation
- F. The TEPPC shall undertake assignments related to its functions as requested by the Board of Directors.
- G. The TEPPC will depend on technical support from the Standing Committees and their subgroups and other WECC committees and sub-regional planning groups as needed.
- H. The TEPPC shall review this document on an annual basis and recommend to the Board any changes that the TEPPC considers advisable.
- I. The TEPPC shall normally report to the Board of Directors at each Board meeting with respect to its activities and with such recommendations and findings as are deemed appropriate.
- J. TEPPC's role will not include:
1. conducting sub-regional or detailed project-specific studies,
  2. prioritizing and advocating specific economic expansion projects,

3. identifying potential “winners” and “losers,”
4. developing or advocating cost allocations,
5. developing or advocating cost allocation criteria,
6. providing mechanisms to obtain funding,
7. assigning transmission rights,
8. providing backstop permitting or approval authority, or
9. performing reliability analysis outside of what is being done today.

### **III. Committee Composition**

TEPPC will include transmission providers, policy makers, governmental representatives, and others with expertise in planning, building new economic transmission, evaluating the economics of transmission or resource plans; or managing public planning processes. The committee members should generally reflect the geographic and stakeholder breadth of WECC.

TEPPC will be comprised of individuals from a WECC member organization that have the following associations or areas of expertise. The WECC Board will approve the TEPPC members. The TEPPC shall include:

1. Two WECC Board Members,
2. One representative from each of the five WECC sub-regional planning groups and one from the CAISO
3. One representative from a Public Utility Commission,
4. One representative from a State/Provincial Energy Department/Office,
5. One transmission owner,
6. One load serving entity (LSE) representative,
7. One generator owner representative,
8. One consumer representative,
9. One expert in the IRP processes,
10. One wholesale market expert,
11. One environmental representative.

The committee will not exceed seventeen members.

### **IV. Governance**

1. The TEPPC members shall be designated by the Board of Directors. The RPIC will solicit member’s interest in serving on TEPPC and review names and qualifications. The RPIC will recommend a slate of members to initially populate the TEPPC.
2. The board shall review the TEPPC membership at least every three years.
3. If a vacancy occurs on the TEPPC the TEPPC Chair shall recommend to the board a name or names of individuals to fill that vacancy.

4. The Chair of the Board of Directors shall appoint one of the Committee's Board of Director members to serve as the Committee Chair. The TEPPC Chair shall appoint a Secretary who need not be a Director or a Committee member.
5. The time and place of meetings of the TEPPC and the procedures for such meeting shall be as determined by the members of the TEPPC, provided that:
  - (a) The TEPPC shall meet as needed to fulfill its responsibilities.
  - (b) A quorum for meetings shall be a simple majority of the members of the TEPPC.
  - (c) Meetings of the TEPPC may be in person or by conference call as determined by the TEPPC Chair.
  - (d) The TEPPC Chair shall provide an email notice to committee members and Board members the time and place of all meetings of the TEPPC no later than three weeks prior to the meeting, together with an agenda of the items for which possible action may be taken. This information will also be and posted to the TEPPC web page. Any member of the Board may attend any meeting held in person and may monitor any meeting held by conference call. Regular meeting should be scheduled at the beginning of the year.
  - (e) WECC members who wish to attend TEPPC meetings or monitor TEPPC conference calls may do so after providing notice of their interest to the TEPPC Chair by email. Upon receiving such a notice, the TEPPC Chair shall provide an email copy of the notice and agenda of future meetings to that WECC member at the time the notice and agenda are provided to the Board. Information regarding location of specific meetings or how to join a specific conference call may be obtained directly from the TEPPC Chair or their designee.
  - (f) Only the Board designated committee members or their designated proxy may vote.
  - (g) Action taken by TEPPC shall require a majority vote of those voting members present in person or on the telephone conference call.
  - (h) The TEPPC Chair may call for a closed session of the TEPPC to protect the confidentiality of proprietary information or to receive attorney-client communications. Such closed sessions of the TEPPC shall only be attended by members of the TEPPC and by any other person invited to attend by the TEPPC Chair.
6. The non-Affiliated Directors' compensation for serving on the TEPPC shall be as established by the Board.

7. The TEPPC will view projects at their conceptual stage consistent with the Transmission Economic Expansion Planning functions. TEPPC shall develop a vibrant relationship with WECC Staff, WECC and non-WECC committees/organizations regarding coordination of data collection, study scenarios, conducting the economic transmission planning process and reviewing/validating system modeling.