

## **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Draft Attachment K**

### **I. Overview of the LADWP Transmission Planning Process**

#### **Background**

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is a vertically integrated municipal utility owned by the City of Los Angeles (City). It exists under and by virtue of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles (“City Charter”) enacted in 1925. As mandated by the City Charter, LADWP provides electricity to the residents and businesses within the City of Los Angeles, a 464-square-mile service area. LADWP is governed by a five-member Board of Water and Power Commissioners. The Board members are appointed and removed in accordance with Section 502 of the City Charter and each board member generally serves an integral term of five years.

LADWP’s transmission system consists of High Voltage (287 kV and above) Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC) transmission lines and a 115kV-to-230kV in-basin, local network totaling more than 4600 miles. As part of these 4600 miles, the High Voltage AC and DC transmission lines account for more than 2900 miles, providing over 10,000 MW of import capability (for all of the lines in its control area). LADWP utilizes its transmission resources to transport power from the Pacific Northwest, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and within California to serve its customers and to wheel power for the Cities of Burbank and Glendale, as well as to other utilities.

LADWP has a long history of promoting and participating in the development of jointly-owned regional transmission and generation projects. Examples of such projects include, but are not limited to, the Hoover Dam, Pacific DC Intertie, Navajo, Mojave, Palo Verde, Intermountain, Mead-Adelanto and Mead-Phoenix projects. LADWP, in collaboration with other participants, is currently promoting a jointly-owned regional transmission project, identified as the Green Path North Project, and the upgrade of an existing regional transmission project, known as the Intermountain HVDC system. These multi-region transmission and generation projects laid the foundation for and form the backbone to the Western Interconnect as we know it today. These projects have enhanced the reliability of the interconnected transmission systems in the West, and have enabled efficient and economic transportation of huge amounts of electric energy over long distances and across regions to stimulate economic development in the Western region of the United States.

LADWP is a member of Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA). SCPPA is a joint powers authority under California law and operates as a collaborative forum to promote generation and transmission projects in effort to meet the regional needs in California. LADWP is also a founding member of the Western Arizona Transmission System (WATS), a regional group whose stated mission is to ensure reliability and expansion of the 500-kV transmission system among Arizona, Nevada, and California. Historically, LADWP also has served as an active participant in many regional and sub-regional groups that promote reliable and efficient planning and operation of interconnected transmission systems such as Western Electricity

Coordinating Council (WECC), Southwest Transmission Expansion Planning (now disbanded), WATS, California Operating Studies Subcommittee, California Coordinating Committee on Power Operations (now disbanded), and more.

### **LADWP Transmission Planning Process**

LADWP's transmission planning process is based on the following objectives:

- Ensure the City's electrical demand and energy requirements are met at all times
- Ensure the transmission system met all the relevant WECC/NERC planning standards under both normal and contingency conditions
- Identify and promote opportunities for collaboration in transmission expansion in an open, transparent, coordinated, equitable, and participatory manner

LADWP's transmission planning process is intended to facilitate a timely, coordinated and transparent process that fosters the development of electric infrastructure that both maintains reliability and meets load growth, so that LADWP can continue to provide reliable low cost electric power to our customers.

LADWP's local transmission planning process complies with the WECC/NERC planning standards and the WECC voltage collapse criteria and study methodology. LADWP performs an annual 10-year transmission assessment of its in-basin transmission systems based on WECC-approved base cases which encompasses a full representation of the WECC systems. At least one system (1-in-10 peak) condition is modeled for each 10-year assessment. The annual 10-year plan is available on LADWP's website.

In addition to local transmission planning process, LADWP relies on its participation in the WECC to ensure its regional and sub-regional transmission planning processes are open and transparent to interested parties. Many of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order No. 890 transmission planning process requirements are met by LADWP's membership and participation in WECC which promotes and coordinates electric system reliability throughout 14 regions including: eleven states within the Western region of the United States; British Columbia, Canada; Alberta, Canada; and Baja California in Mexico. WECC is the FERC approved Regional Reliability Organization as mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Pub. L. No.109-058). WECC's planning process complies with all applicable NERC reliability criteria and assures open and non-discriminatory transmission access. WECC also provides a forum for resolving transmission access disputes, and provides an open and transparent environment for coordinated planning and operations of members' transmission systems. All WECC meetings are open to the public and any stakeholder could attend a WECC meeting.

On a going-forward basis, LADWP will continue its tradition of participating in up-and-coming sub-regional and WECC-wide forums for the expressed purpose of meeting all the requirements of FERC Order No. 890.

LADWP either owns or jointly own very extensive transmission ties with many utilities in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. The FERC certified sub-regional group, WestConnect, encompasses many of the areas that LADWP has jointly-owned transmission projects. In fact, over 70% of LADWP's high voltage transmission system is inside the footprint of the WestConnect sub-regional group. As a result of this synergy, LADWP is seeking approval from its governing authority to join the WestConnect Planning Initiative. As stated on its website at [www.westconnect.com](http://www.westconnect.com), "WestConnect is composed of utility companies providing transmission of electricity in the southwestern United States, working collaboratively to assess stakeholder and market needs and develop cost-effective enhancements to the western wholesale electricity market." Subject to the approval of its governing body, LADWP intends to participate in the planning process of the WestConnect as posted on WestConnect's website.

The sub-regional planning groups within the WestConnect footprint, assisted by the WestConnect planning manager, coordinate with other Western Interconnection transmission providers and their subregional planning groups through the Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC). TEPPC (a WECC board level committee) provides for the development and maintenance of an economic transmission study database for the entire Western Interconnection and performs annual congestion studies at the Western Interconnection regional level.

## **II. Local Planning Process**

The local, in-basin transmission system of LADWP consists of a 115kV-to-230kV transmission network that feeds into various load centers within the City of Los Angeles. LADWP has no network customers and has not implemented direct access. To date, no third party generators are interconnected with LADWP's local transmission system. LADWP has provided and continues to provide wheeling services to the Cities of Burbank and Glendale (which are in the LADWP control area), however, these cities perform their own transmission and resource planning.

LADWP's local transmission planning process complies with the WECC/NERC planning standards (TPL-001 through TPL-004) and the WECC voltage collapse criteria and study methodology. LADWP performs annual 10-year transmission assessment of its in-basin transmission system using approved WECC basecases (available to all WECC members) which have full representation of the WECC systems. At least one system (1-in-10 peak) condition is modeled for each of the 10 years. The annual 10-year plan may be access via LADWP OASIS. If a planned project impacts LADWP's service territory only, then LADWP will conduct its own internal planning process to implement the project. For local projects which may have a system impact on neighboring territories at or near the boundary of LADWP's service territory, LADWP actively initiates and participates in joint projects through SCPPA and other joint project agreements with our neighbors.

### **III. Regional and Subregional Planning**

LADWP makes regular reports and presentations on any significant project (both approved and subject to evaluation for approval) to its Board of Water and Power Commissioners. The Board approves these projects within its discretion based upon a number of factors, including but not limited to environmental impacts. The Board meetings are open to public with posted Agenda.

When a transmission project is deemed significant on a regional or subregional level, LADWP relies on WECC Regional Planning Project Review Process to publicize and coordinate its information about the project or proposed project with all WECC members. LADWP also will rely on the WestConnect for coordination and participation in the WestConnect planning process. In addition to being a certified subregional group of FERC, WestConnect also is a WECC recognized Subregional Planning Group. LADWP is an active participant in the discussions to create a new subregional planning group that would encompass the Pacific Southwest region entitled Pacific Southwest Planning Association (PSPA). LADWP will act through PSPA to coordinate with PSPA members and stakeholders when it becomes a recognized subregional group for transmission project planning in the Pacific Southwest region.

The purpose of the WECC Regional Planning Project Review Process is to:

- Foster the development of a broad regional or subregional planning perspective among all stakeholders in the planning process;
- Promote and encourage a more efficient use and development of the region's or subregion's existing and future facilities to enhance interconnected system operation;
- Ensure that all relevant regional or subregional planning issues are considered during the planning of transmission project with regional or subregional significance;
- Provide procedures and guidelines for coordinated regional and subregional planning;
- Involve Member Representative, member executives, regulators, existing planning bodies, environmental groups, land use groups, and other non-utility interest groups in the process;
- Allow stakeholders to identify opportunities for improved regional transmission efficiencies and make recommendations to achieve them; and
- Provide a voluntary dispute resolution procedure.

The proposed focus of the WestConnect planning meetings will be:

#### **1. WestConnect First Quarter Meeting – January**

- West Connect Ten Year Transmission Plan Presentation to Planning Management Committee
- Submittal for Planning Management Committee approval
- WestConnect Annual Planning Report from prior year
- WestConnect Study Plan for year going forward

- Proposed adjustments to planning process or budget for year going forward as necessary or appropriate
2. **WestConnect Second Quarter Meeting – May**
- WestConnect Total Transmission Capability (TTC)/Available Transmission Capacity (ATC) Presentation:  
Each transmission provider presents its calculations for TTC and ATC for each of its posted paths.
3. **WestConnect Third Quarter Meeting – August**
- WestConnect Planning Workshop
    - Presentation of current year (10-year) study
    - Presentation of current transmission plans
    - Discussion of future study needs
    - Next year work assignments