SaskPower

Study Completion Time

The time required to complete studies has been increasing. Reasons for this include:

- A large quantity of study requests in the queue. These include potential generator additions and OATT requests.
- Studies must be conducted in sequence. There is no allowance to prioritize projects based on size, feasibility, or other factors. For example:
    - Renewable generation sources tend to be smaller capacity, and more numerous, but each proponent occupies one line in the queue, and each must be handled as a separate study. A study for a large project must wait for smaller projects higher in the queue to be completed. Alternatively, a large project would be expected to take more study effort than smaller projects, and would delay studies for smaller projects lower in the queue.
    - Some projects can be quickly observed to be promising, while others are uncertain. However, studies for promising projects may have to wait until all projects higher in the queue are completed.
    - It is difficult to study projects lower in the queue before knowing whether projects higher in the queue will proceed. The models developed for any study must include valid generation patterns. The entire process can be derailed if a single proponent withdraws, causing a change to the model. This can force restudy of work already begun on subsequent studies.
    - When studies are performed in sequence, efficiencies can not be realized by using more resources to perform studies in parallel.
    - Sequenced studies do not facilitate the grouping of projects within a region, which otherwise could optimize transmission facilities, at reduced cost for all.

To address the backlog of studies, SaskPower has acquired additional internal and external engineering resources. Because of the high level of economic activity in the province, customers should be aware that even with these additional resources, studies may take considerably longer than they expect. Customers who do enter into a study agreement with SaskPower can be assured that they will be kept informed by Transmission Services of study progress.