

## **Background**

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There is a confluence of issues either directly impacting the Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC), or raising questions about the value and purpose of TEPPC. Some of these are:

- Questions raised during the Section 4.9 review about whether there is overlap between the work of TEPPC and other committees particularly PCC.
- Questions resulting from FERC Order 1000 about whether the work of TEPPC overlaps that of the Regional Planning Groups.
- Questions around funding now that the ARRA grant has ended.
- Questions identified through the MAC Board evaluation process about TEPPC, particularly about the appropriateness of Directors participating on TEPPC.
- Questions around data sharing appear to be an ongoing concern of TEPPC. Before this question can be appropriately addressed, it is essential that TEPPC's ongoing role be confirmed.
- Work identified by TEPPC needs to be congruent with WECC's priorities and available resources.

The draft Section 4.9 Review Work Group Report recommends that the WECC Board direct the Standing Committees and TEPPC to review and report back on their structure and charters. In anticipation of this direction from the Board, on October 13, 2015, TEPPC approved an interim planning protocol for review by the Board and plans to complete the process with a comprehensive review of its charter and planning protocol in 2016.

## **Task Force Proposal**

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This proposal provides the framework for the establishment of a cross-functional task force responsible for the development of a revised TEPPC planning protocol and revised charters for TEPPC and its subcommittees and work groups. Although TEPPC has recently approved a revised interim TEPPC Protocol and Value Proposition, this proposal provides additional structure, identifies questions that would be addressed, and provides a schedule—all of which would form the basis of a charter for the task force. This proposal would be submitted to the Board for their consideration, possible additional input, and be presented to the Board for their approval.

## **Composition**

The task force could consist of:

- Chair either Chair or Vice Chair of TEPPC;



- 3 TEPPC Representatives: 1-NGO, 1-State Provincial, and 1-Transmission Owner;
- 1 representative from SPSG;
- 1 representative from TAS;
- 1 representative from WIRAB;
- 1 representative from MAC;
- 1 representative from PCC;
- 1 representative from WECC management; and
- 1 representative from a Regional Planning Group (RPG).

## Scope

The task force would, at a minimum, address the following questions:

1. **Scope:** Given WECC's reliability mission, what long-term reliability assessments should be performed through TEPPC? How are the future scenarios valued as part of assuring the long-term reliability of the Western Interconnection? Considering the responsibilities of the Regional Planning Groups (RPGs) under FERC Order 1000, what activities should TEPPC perform?
2. **Study program:** How can this process reflect the changing needs of the Western Interconnection and emergent work? How should the request window and prioritization process be changed to reflect the volume of work that WECC can undertake while focusing primarily on studies with Interconnection-wide impact? How can RPG's requests related to FERC Order 1000 responsibilities be considered appropriately in developing TEPPC's annual study program? How can the study program be developed to include studies in all planning horizons within which stakeholders value TEPPC's analyses (i.e., 20 years, 10 years, other time frames)?
3. **Transmission report:** TEPPC recently decided to replace the traditional biennial Interconnection-wide Transmission Plan with a transmission report that synthesizes the recent work completed by TEPPC. What is the appropriate frequency and scope for such a TEPPC deliverable?
4. **Planning protocol:** What is the appropriate scope and level of detail needed in a planning protocol to adequately describe the work of TEPPC?
5. **Potential opportunities for TEPPC/PCC efficiencies:** Are there similarities or overlaps between the work of TEPPC and the PCC? Are there opportunities for integration and alignment of the work plans?
6. **Membership:** Is the predefined membership structure still the most effective? Given a Board composition of independent Directors, does it still make sense to require two Board members be assigned as TEPPC members?

7. **Leadership:** Does the requirement to have a Board member serve as the chair of TEPPC still make sense given a much smaller, independent Board of Directors? Does this provide enough separation of duties between the TEPPC chair and the Board's responsibility?
8. **Committee name:** Since TEPPC does not produce a transmission plan within the generally accepted language of electric utilities, and no longer even issues a document called a transmission plan, is there a more appropriate name that better reflects the committee's activities?
9. **Alignment of TEPPC work with WECC priorities:** What is the process used to ensure alignment of TEPPC work priorities with WECC's priorities and to advise WECC management of recommended resource requirements.
10. **NGO and state representative funding:** Should expense reimbursement for NGO and state participation continue to be funded by WECC? Does the value added justify the cost?
11. **Data sharing:** What is the benefit of relying only on publicly available data sources? Are there other methods of accomplishing the same benefit, such as the use of NDAs or retained independent experts to validate analyses?

The task force could consider additional questions should they arise during the course of its work.

### Proposed Schedule

Time Frame	Activity
November 4-5, 2015	Discuss proposal at TEPPC quarterly meeting,
December 1, 2015	Recommend task force and work program at WECC Board meeting,
January, 2016	Form task force and create detailed schedule and work plan.
June, 2016	Present draft recommendations at WECC Board meeting,
September, 2016	Present final proposal, including revised charter and protocol, at WECC Annual Meeting,
January, 2017	Implement new charter and protocol.