

Transmission Proposal Summary

5 may, 2009

Policy

Establishes the policy that the transmission infrastructure should be guided by the following goals: support for development of renewable generation; opportunities for reduced emissions; cost savings resulting from reduced congestion, enhanced opportunities for trades, reduced line losses, generation sharing; enhanced fuel diversity; reliability benefits; diversification of risk; enhancement of competition and mitigation of market power; ability to collocate facilities on existing rights-of-way; competing land use priorities; the needs of load-serving entities; and the contribution of demand response, energy efficiency and distributed generation.

Planning

- Requires FERC to coordinate development of an interconnection-wide plan that achieves the policy goals, from plans developed by current planning entities;
 - FERC must promulgate a rule to embody the policy goals and develop a schedule to implement those policies. The plan must be published within one year of enactment.
 - Transmission planning entities shall develop regional plans and submit them to FERC within 24 months. The Commission will encourage joint submissions and submission of interconnection-wide plans. FERC may require modification of submitted plans to ensure conformance to planning principles and to reconcile inconsistencies.
 - FERC shall periodically evaluate whether projects in the interconnection-wide plan are being developed, and if not take actions, in accordance with other provisions of law, to address identified obstacles;
 - Make recommendations to Congress for further actions or authority needed to ensure development of timely projects.
 - Update the plan every three years.

Siting

- Allows States one year from time of filing of a proposal to site a high priority national transmission project;
- Gives FERC jurisdiction over siting when states have either been unable to site the facility or have denied the application;
- Jurisdiction is over facilities 345 kilovolts and above that are included in the Interconnection-wide transmission plan;
- Gives the Department of the Interior lead agency status for development of records of decision on public lands.

Cost Allocation

- FERC must establish, by rule, appropriate methodologies for allocation of costs of high priority national transmission projects;
- Such methodologies derived from the cost allocation must be just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential;
- FERC may allocate costs across a region unless it finds that costs are disproportionate to reasonably anticipated benefits..