

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Transmission Planning Processes Under Order No. 890

Docket No. AD09-8-000

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCES

(August 3, 2009)

On June 30, 2009, the Commission issued a notice scheduling staff technical conferences to examine the transmission planning processes that are being conducted pursuant to Order No. 890.¹ As stated in the June 30 notice, these technical conferences are intended to meet the Commission's commitment that its staff would conduct an assessment of the Order No. 890 transmission planning processes. The focus of the 2009 regional technical conferences will be: (1) to determine the progress and benefits realized by each transmission provider's transmission planning process, obtain customer and other stakeholder input, and discuss any areas that may need improvement; (2) to examine whether existing transmission planning processes adequately consider needs and solutions on a regional or interconnection-wide basis to ensure adequate and reliable supplies at just and reasonable rates; and (3) to explore whether existing processes are sufficient to meet emerging challenges to the transmission system, such as the development of inter-regional transmission facilities, the integration of large amounts of location-constrained generation, and the interconnection of distributed energy resources.

The attached agenda provides details on the topics that will be discussed on the panels at each of the three conferences as well as the topics panelists should be prepared to address.

As provided for in the June 30 notice, those wishing to participate as panelists should submit a request form, as indicated below, describing the topic(s) they wish to address. Those wishing to attend each conference are also asked to complete the registration form, as indicated below.

A final notice with a list of the panelists for each conference will be issued in advance of the conferences.

¹ *Preventing Undue Discrimination and Preference in Transmission Service*, Order No. 890, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,241, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 890-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,261 (2007), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 890-B, 123 FERC ¶ 61,299 (2008), *order on reh'g*, Order No. 890-C, 126 FERC ¶ 61,228 (2009).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Further Information</u>
September 3, 2009	Phoenix Airport Marriott 1101 North 44 th Street Phoenix, AZ 85008	Entities located within the ColumbiaGrid, Northern Tier Transmission Group, WestConnect, and CAISO footprints, and other entities in the WECC region that are not a part of any of these subregional groups. Staff also requests a representative of WECC's Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee attend this technical conference

For further information, see calendar listing, located at:

<http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventDetails.aspx?ID=4744&CalType=%20&CalendarID=116&Date=09/03/2009&View=Listview>

Those wishing to participate as a panelist on one of the panels in the attached agenda should submit a request form by close of business on August 13, 2009, located at:

<https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/trans-09-03-speaker-form.asp>

Those that plan to attend the Phoenix conference should submit the registration form, located at:

<https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/trans-09-03-form.asp>

September 10, 2009	Sheraton Gateway Hotel Atlanta Airport 1900 Sullivan Road Atlanta, GA 30337	Entities located in the states represented in the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC) and entities located in the Southwest Power Pool footprint. For further information, see calendar listing, located at: http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventDetails.aspx?ID=4745&CalType=%20&CalendarID=116&Date=09/10/2009&View=Listview
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Those wishing to participate as a panelist on one of the

panels in the attached agenda should submit a request form by close of business on August 20, 2009, located at: <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/trans-09-10-speaker-form.asp>

Those that plan to attend the Atlanta conference should submit the registration form, located at: <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/trans-09-10-form.asp>

September 21, 2009
 Marriott Philadelphia Airport
 One Arrivals Road
 Philadelphia, PA 19153

Entities located within the Midwest ISO, PJM, New York ISO, and ISO New England footprints, MAPP/MAPP Participants, and adjacent areas.

For further information, see calendar listing, located at: <http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventDetails.aspx?ID=4746&CalType=%20&CalendarID=116&Date=09/21/2009&View=Listview>

Those wishing to participate as a panelist on one of the panels in the attached agenda should submit a request form by close of business on August 31, 2009, located at: <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/trans-09-21-speaker-form.asp>

Those that plan to attend the Philadelphia conference should submit the registration form, located at: <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/trans-09-21-form.asp>

In the event a transmission provider is uncertain as to which technical conference is the appropriate forum for discussion of its planning process, such transmission providers should contact Commission staff in advance to discuss the matter. Lastly, a comment date will be set at a later date allowing for the filing of post-conference comments.

For further information about these conferences, please contact:

Zeny Magos (Technical Information)
Office of Energy Market Regulation
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
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Office of the General Counsel – Energy Markets
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
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Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.



Regional Technical Conferences Assessing the Order No. 890 Planning Processes

September 3, 2009 Phoenix Airport Marriott 1101 North 44 th Street Phoenix, AZ 85008	September 10, 2009 Sheraton Gateway Hotel Atlanta Airport 1900 Sullivan Road Atlanta, GA 30337	September 21, 2009 Marriott Philadelphia Airport One Arrivals Road Philadelphia, PA 19153
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Docket No. AD09-8-000

Agenda*

9 am - 9:15 am **Opening remarks**

FERC staff

9:15 am - 10:45 am **Feedback on Current Planning Processes**

In this session, Commission staff seeks information on the effectiveness of the current planning processes and how the current planning processes are working at the local, sub-regional and regional levels. Staff will lead the panel in a discussion of the following topics. Panelists should be prepared to address each topic and discuss actual experiences under the existing transmission planning processes.

* At the end of each panel, there will be an opportunity for audience members to provide comments.

- Are the current Order No. 890 transmission planning processes, whether relying on reliability or market-driven structures, effective in preventing opportunities for undue discrimination in transmission planning and expansion?
- Is there robust participation by stakeholders from all sectors in the transmission planning process? Is diverse stakeholder participation occurring at all levels of the planning process (i.e., local, sub-regional and regional)? If not, why?
- Are there factors that have impeded the planning efforts? If so, what are they?
- Is there sufficient transparency? Are the data and information exchange needs of stakeholders being met?
- What improvements to the Order No. 890 transmission planning processes should be considered?

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Regional and Inter-regional Planning

In this session, Commission staff seeks information on the development of regional and inter-regional transmission plans. Staff will lead the panel in a discussion of the following topics. Panelists should be prepared to address each topic and discuss actual experiences under existing transmission planning processes.

- Are existing transmission planning processes adequate to evaluate transmission investments with benefits that extend across multiple planning regions?
- Should there be broader coordination in the development of transmission plans? If so, what roles would individual public utilities and existing or new planning organizations play in this broader coordination?
- How are reliability impact studies aligned with economic-based evaluations of sub-regional or regional projects? If not aligned, how can reliability assessments and economic evaluations be aligned in order to better understand the impact of sub-regional and regional projects?
- How should merchant transmission projects be treated for purposes of regional transmission planning? For example, should they be required to participate in the planning process and, if so, at what point must they engage in the planning process?
- Should prospective transmission developers coordinate their projects in the interest of “right-sizing” facilities to make the best use of available corridors and minimize environmental impacts? If so, what, if any, process should govern the selection of competing sub-regional or regional projects?
- What improvements are necessary to facilitate planning between regional planning entities?
- What planning processes are needed to better integrate renewable resources into the system? How do the planning processes consider ancillary services that are necessary to accommodate renewables (e.g., regional deliverability and reliability needs)?

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch Break**1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Cost Allocation**

In this session, Commission staff seeks information on the effectiveness of the existing cost allocation methods currently used by transmission providers, and seeks comment on alternative cost allocation methods. Staff will lead the panel in a discussion of the following topics. Panelists should be prepared to address each topic and discuss actual experiences under existing transmission planning processes.

- Are there regional cost allocation methodologies outside RTOs, and broader regional cost allocation within RTOs, that should be considered or established? If so, how should this be done? What considerations should be used?
- Should processes be established to help stakeholders address cost allocation matters over larger geographic regions? Are there opportunities for stakeholders to address cost allocation matters by tariff or contract?
- Should each transmission provider hold an open season solicitation of interest for needed transmission projects identified through the transmission planning process in order to assist in cost allocation determinations? Should identified non-transmission alternatives also be held to an open season solicitation?

3:15 pm – 4:45 pm Examining Coordination and Comparability

In this session, Commission staff seeks information on the effectiveness of coordination and open communication among transmission providers, their transmission-providing neighbors, affected state authorities, customers and other stakeholders. Commission staff also seeks information about the comparability in treatment between the transmission provider and stakeholders, as well as among various types of resources. Staff will lead the panel in a discussion of the following topics. Panelists should be prepared to address each topic and discuss actual experiences under existing transmission planning processes.

- Are all resources (transmission, generation, and demand resources) treated comparably in the transmission planning process? If not, what reforms are necessary to ensure that this occurs?
- How responsive are transmission providers to stakeholder needs, concerns or suggestions?
- What impact does a right of first refusal for incumbent transmission owners have on transmission development and cost allocation methods?
- How are interconnection queue processes coordinated with transmission planning studies? Are reforms needed to align the interconnection queue study process with the local, sub-regional and regional planning processes? If so, in what way(s) can

these processes be aligned? Are the transmission planning processes addressing causes of interconnection queuing problems?²

- Do existing transmission planning processes incorporate adequate coordination with respect to satisfying state policies such as renewable portfolio standards and efficiency standards?
- How do the planning processes ensure that systems are planned to operate as efficiently as possible? To what degree are advanced transmission technologies (§1223 EAct 2005) considered in the planning process?

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Final Questions/wrap-up/adjournment

² See, e.g., *Interconnection Queuing Practices*, 122 FERC ¶ 61,252, at P 6 (2008).