

Policy Issue #4 Review of the Detailed Studies

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Problem Statement

Organization for the timely review of individual NCA studies, their findings and recommendations for the use Non-construction Alternatives in order to develop Roundtable consensus and make actionable recommendations to BPA and other utilities.

Current Situation

BPA has developed an internal process involving TBL and Energy Efficiency to screen proposed Transmission Projects to determine if NCA options exists that could defer identified Transmission upgrades in a cost-effective fashion. The product of this screening process will be a study that will be reviewed by the Roundtable participants.

One of the purposes of the Roundtable is to provide BPA with an outside perspective on value of non-construction alternatives to address specific project plans.

In order to make the best use of the time available to the Roundtable the studies need to be made available to the participants and initial screening of the study findings and recommendations should be presented prior to the Roundtable meeting in order for the meetings to be more efficient and productive.

Goal

The desired outcome is the timely screening and evaluation of Non-Construction Alternatives and the communication of study findings prior to the Roundtable meetings in order to facilitate knowledgeable discussion of the study findings and recommendations.

- Review and summary of study findings
- Provide independent perspective on study finding
- Communications of findings to Roundtable with recommendations for
 - implementation of findings,
 - further review,
 - program and/or pilot design and implementation
- Feedback to BPA study team to improve quality of study analysis

Tasks

1. Coordinate timelines for release and review of studies to the Roundtable

Task: Coordinating with NCA Study Staff and Roundtable members establish timelines for the distribution of individual studies for review prior to the Roundtable meeting.

2. Prepare summary of study finding for Roundtable

Task: Coordinating with the NCA Study Staff and using the NCA study as guidance, prepare and present to the Roundtable an independent assessment of study findings and recommendations.

3. Prepare feedback to study authors for the purpose of improving the study process and documentation

Task: BPA will continue performing NCA screening studies. Each study presents unique analytical issues specific to that location on the transmission system. To the extent that each analysis lends itself to standard treatment, the Roundtable and the Study Review sub-committee will provide comments for the purpose of improving study content and communication of findings to the Roundtable and other interested stakeholders.

4. Release of Olympic Peninsula and Lower Valley studies to Roundtable Members

5. Prepare a report reviewing and evaluating Olympic and Lower Valley studies for Roundtable Members.