

ATTACHMENT K [TEMPLATE]

Transmission Planning Process

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ATTACHMENT K

Transmission Planning Process

Preamble

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, Transmission Provider's planning process is performed on a local, regional, and interregional basis. Section 1 of this Attachment K addresses the local planning process. Section 2 of this Attachment K addresses the regional planning process. Section 3 of this Attachment K addresses the long-term regional planning process. Section 4 of this Attachment K addresses interregional coordination with the planning regions in the United States portion of the Western Interconnection. Section 5 of this Attachment K addresses Economic Study Requests. Section 6 of this Attachment K address Dispute Resolution.

The Transmission Provider is responsible for maintaining its Transmission System and planning for transmission and generator interconnection service pursuant to the Tariff and other agreements. The Transmission Provider retains the responsibility for the local planning process and Local Transmission Plan and may accept or reject, in whole or in part, the comments of any stakeholder unless prohibited by applicable law or regulation.

SECTION 0 Definitions

The following terms shall have the following definitions where used in this Attachment K. Other terms defined in other sections of the Tariff shall have the meanings set forth in such section of the Tariff.

"Advanced Conductors" include present and future transmission line technologies whose power flow capacities exceed the power flow capacities of conventional aluminum conductor steel reinforced conductors, and may include superconducting cables, advanced composite conductors, advanced steel core, high temperature low-sag conductors, fiber optic temperature sensing conductors, and advance overhead conductors.

"Advanced Power Flow Control Devices" are devices that can help the system operator control power flows over a given path and can include phase shifting transformers (also known as phase angle regulators) and devices or systems necessary for implementing optimal transmission switching. Advanced power flow control devices allow power to be pushed and pulled to alternate lines with spare capacity leading to maximum utilization of existing transmission capacity.

"Agreement Limiting Liability Among Western Interconnected Systems" or "WIS Agreement" means at any time the Agreement Limiting Liability Among Western Interconnected Systems as it may have then been amended.

"Alternative Project" refers to any Sponsored Projects or ITPs (including those carried over from a prior Regional Transmission Plan or Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan, as applicable) and projects submitted by Merchant Transmission Developers), and unsponsored projects if any, including those identified by the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee.

“Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting” means the annual meeting of the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region and other Planning Regions as set forth in Section 4.3 of this Attachment K.

“Annual Interregional Information” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.2 of this Attachment K.

“Annualized Cost” means one of the following, as determined by the Cost Allocation Task Force: the Annualized Cost of the Project that is not an ITP as determined in accordance with Section 2.6.2.1 of this Attachment K, or the Annualized Cost of an ITP as determined in accordance with Section 2.6.2.2 of this Attachment K.

“Assigned Regional Costs from Interregional Cost Allocation” means, with respect to an ITP, the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region’s assigned *pro rata* share of the projected costs of such ITP calculated pursuant to Section 4.7.6 of this Attachment K.

“Baseline Projects of Enrolled Parties” means the transmission projects included in the Enrolled Parties’ Local Transmission Plans plus those projects included in the prior Regional Transmission Plan or Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan, as applicable, that will be reevaluated (unless the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee has received or is aware that a project included in the prior Regional or Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan has been cancelled or replaced, in which case the cancelled or replaced project will not be considered). Baseline Projects of Enrolled Parties do not include Committed Projects.

“Benefit” means the benefits identified in Section 2.6.4 of this Attachment K that are calculated for an Enrolled Party associated with an Eligible Cost Allocation Project.

“Benefit-to-Cost Ratio” means the ratio established in Section 2.6.5 of this Attachment K.

“Best Available Data Inputs” means data inputs that are timely, developed using best practices and diverse and expert perspectives, and adopted via a process that satisfies the transmission planning principles of Order Nos. 890, 1000 and 1920. Best Available Data Inputs shall also reflect the list of factors that the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee accounts for in the Long-Term Scenarios (i.e., the data inputs that correspond to the list of factors that the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee determined might affect Long-Term Transmission Needs).

“Commencement Date” shall have the meaning provided in Section 3.1 of this Attachment K.

“Commission” means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or any successor entity.

“Committed Project” means a Sponsored Project or a local project for which the developer of such project has obtained substantially all federal, county and state permits required for the development of the project.

“Confidential Information” means all information, regardless of the manner in which it is furnished, marked as “Confidential Information” at the time of its furnishing; *provided that* Confidential Information shall not include information: (i) in the public domain or generally available or known to the public; (ii) disclosed to a recipient by a Person who had a legal right to do so; (iii) independently developed by the receiving party or known to such party prior to its disclosure to Transmission Provider in connection with its local transmission planning process, or to NorthernGrid in connection with the regional transmission planning process; (iv) normally disclosed by entities in the Western Interconnection without limitation; (v) disclosed in aggregate form where specific identifying information is unidentifiable; or (vi) required to be disclosed by subpoena, law, or other directive of a court, administrative agency, or arbitration panel.

“Cost Allocation Methodology” means the Cost Allocation Methodology set out in Section 2 of this Attachment K.

“Cost Allocation Project” means a project selected into the Regional Transmission Plan or the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan, as applicable, that received cost allocation.

“Cost Allocation Task Force” means the Task Force that carries out cost allocation tasks assigned to such Task Force in this Attachment K according to the Cost Allocation Task Force Charter.

“Cost Allocation Task Force Charter” means the document attached as Exhibit A to this Attachment K that defines the manner in which the Cost Allocation Task Force carries out the tasks assigned to the Cost Allocation Task Force in this Attachment K.

“Critical Energy Infrastructure Information” or “CEII” means information as defined in 18 C.F.R. § 388.113(c), as may be amended from time to time.

“Data” means NERC data, WECC data, Additional Generating Facility Data, Additional Network Service Data and Additional Transmission Service Data provided or deemed provided (or to be provided or to be deemed provided) to Transmission Provider pursuant to this Attachment K.

“Data Submittal Form” means the form posted on the NorthernGrid Website that is to be used to submit data, including projects and project information for consideration and also updated project information.

“Diverse” means that the set of Long-Term Scenarios must represent a reasonable range of probable future outcomes consistent with the requirement for plausibility, based on assumptions about the factors and data inputs.

“Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan” means the version of the Regional Transmission Plan that is developed and presented for stakeholder comment pursuant to Sections 2.7.1 and 2.7.2 of this Attachment K.

“Draft Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan” means the version of the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan that is developed and presented for stakeholder comment pursuant to Section 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 of this Attachment K.

“Draft Regional Transmission Plan” means the version of the Regional Transmission Plan that is developed and presented for stakeholder comment pursuant to Section 2.4 of this Attachment K.

“Dynamic Line Rating” means a transmission line rating that applies to a time period of not greater than one hour and reflects up-to-date forecasts of inputs such as (but not limited to) ambient air temperature, wind, solar heating, transmission line tension, or transmission line sag.

“Economic Study Request” shall mean a written request for a Local Economic Study or a Regional Economic Study, submitted by an Eligible Customer or stakeholder to the Transmission Provider or NorthernGrid, as may be applicable, in accordance with Section 1, Section 2 and Section 5 of this Attachment K.

“Eligible Cost Allocation Project” means Any Project for Cost Allocation Consideration that is determined to be more efficient or cost-effective will then be incorporated within the Draft Regional Transmission Plan.

“Electric System” shall have the meaning given for the words “electric system” in the WIS Agreement and means (i) electric distribution facilities or (ii) generation facilities or (iii) transmission facilities, or any combination of the three, and includes transmission lines, distribution lines, substations, switching stations, generating plants, and all associated equipment for generating, transmitting, distributing, or controlling flow of power. The Electric System of a Person includes the facilities of another entity operated or controlled by such Person. Electric System includes any devices or equipment (a) by which information is originated on an electric system or by the Person operating such system, (b) by which such information is transmitted, and (c) by which such information is received either for information or for operation of a system, whether by the originating system or by another system.

“Enrolled Parties and States Committee” means the committee that carries out the tasks assigned to such committee in Part IV of this Attachment K according to the Enrolled Parties and States Committee Charter.

“Enrolled Parties and States Committee Charter” means the document attached as Exhibit C to this Attachment K that defines the manner in which the Enrolled Parties and States Committee

is to operate.

“Enrolled Parties Planning Committee” means the committee, comprised of Enrolled Parties and the co-chairs of the Enrolled Parties and States Committee, that carries out transmission planning tasks assigned to such committee in Part IV this Attachment K according to the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee Charter.

“Enrolled Parties Planning Committee Charter” means the document attached as Exhibit B to this Attachment K that defines the manner in which the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to operate.

“Enrolled Party” means a Person that has satisfied the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 2.2.1 of this Attachment K and completed the process set forth in Section 2.2.2 of this Attachment K to become enrolled in NorthernGrid. “Enrolled Parties” is a collective reference to each Enrolled Party.

“Enrolled Party Beneficiary” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.6.5.1 of this Attachment K. For avoidance of doubt, only an Enrolled Party may be identified as Enrolled Party Beneficiary. “Enrolled Party Beneficiaries” is a collective reference to each “Enrolled Party Beneficiary”.

“Enrolled Party Need” means any need for transmission facilities of an Enrolled Party, including any such need that is driven by reliability requirements, addresses economic considerations, or is driven by Public Policy Requirements. To the extent a transmission need is satisfied by a Committed Project, it shall not be considered an Enrolled Party Need.

“Enrolled Region” or “NorthernGrid Enrolled Region” is comprised of the existing or proposed transmission facilities of any Enrolled Party and any proposed transmission facilities for which a Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer has properly submitted a Request for Cost Allocation; *provided* that the Enrolled Region specifically does not include any existing or proposed transmission facilities in any Planning Region other than the Enrolled Region.

“Estimated Cost” means the estimated total capital costs of the project, that are submitted pursuant to row K of the table found in Section 2.3.2.3.5 of this Attachment K, as they may be updated pursuant to either Section 2.3.2.3.8 of this Attachment K.

“Factor Category” means one of the seven specific categories of factors as set forth in Section 3.3.5.2 that are incorporated in the development of Long-Term Scenarios as part of Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning.

“Federally-Recognized Tribal Laws and Regulations” means the legally binding obligations, incentives, and/or restrictions promulgated by Federally-Recognized Tribes that will affect new or existing generators, or demand.”

“Federally-Recognized Tribes” means those Tribes listed in the most recent notice provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and published in the *Federal Register*.

“Functional Type” at any time means each Functional Type as then adopted by NERC.

“Funding Agreement” means the current version of the agreement among the Persons funding the activities of NorthernGrid that is required by Section 2.2.2 of this Attachment K. The Funding Agreement is available on the NorthernGrid Website.

“Grid Enhancing Technologies” means alternative transmission technologies including: Dynamic Line Ratings; Advanced Power Flow Control Devices; Advanced Conductors; and Transmission Switching.

“In-Kind Replacement Estimate” means an Enrolled Party’s estimate of existing transmission facilities owned by the Enrolled Party, operating at or above 200 kV, that the Enrolled Party anticipates replacing in-kind with a new transmission facility during the next 10 years.

“In-Kind Replacement Transmission Facility” means a new transmission facility or facilities that (1) would replace an existing transmission facility(ies) identified by an Enrolled Party in its In-Kind Replacement Estimate as needing to be replaced within the next 10 years; (2) would result in no more than an incidental increase in capacity over the existing transmission facility(ies); and (3) would be located in the same general route as, or use the existing rights-of-way of, the existing transmission facility(ies).

“Interested Stakeholder” means any Person who has expressed an interest in the business of the Transmission Provider and wishes to participate in the planning process.

“Interregional Cost Allocation” means the assignment of ITP costs between or among Relevant Planning Regions as described in Section 4 of this Attachment K.

“Interregional Transfer Capability” means the amount of electric power that can be moved or transferred reliably from one area to another area of the interconnected transmission systems by way of all transmission lines (or paths) between those areas under specified system conditions, or such definition as contained in Commission-approved Reliability Standards.

“Interregional Transmission Project” or “ITP” means a proposed new transmission project that would directly interconnect electrically to existing or planned transmission facilities in two or more Planning Regions and that is submitted into the regional transmission planning processes of all such Planning Regions.

“Interregional Transmission Project Proponent” or “ITP Proponent” means the entity that has signed a “Non-Enrolled Developer Agreement” in accordance with Section 2.2.2.4 of this Attachment K and is proposing or sponsoring an Interregional Transmission Project.

“Local Planning Report” means the biennial report, completed by the Transmission Provider, includes any reliability impacts identified on the local transmission system and a list of projects proposed to mitigate those issues.

“Local Transmission Plan” means a transmission provider’s plan, including the Local Planning Report, that identifies planned new transmission facilities and facility replacements or upgrades for such transmission provider’s Transmission System.

“Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility(ies)” means a regional transmission facility, as defined in Order No. 1000, that is identified as part of Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning to address Long-Term Transmission Needs. For purposes of this definition, a regional transmission facility is a transmission facility located entirely in one transmission planning region.

“Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning” means regional transmission planning on a sufficiently long-term, forward-looking, and comprehensive basis to identify Long-Term Transmission Needs, identify transmission facilities that meet such needs, measure the benefits of those transmission facilities, and evaluate those transmission facilities for potential selection in the regional transmission plan for purposes of cost allocation as the more efficient or cost-effective regional transmission facilities to meet Long-Term Transmission Needs.

“Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle” means each four-year period beginning on January 1 of the first year and ending on December 31 of the fourth year, undertaken by NorthernGrid to create the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan.

“Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Horizon” means the twenty (20) year planning horizon that commences on the Commencement Date of each Long-Term Regional Transmission Cycle.

“Long-Term Scenarios” means scenarios that incorporate various assumptions using Best Available Data Inputs about the future electric power system over a sufficiently long-term, forward-looking transmission planning horizon to identify Long-Term Transmission Needs and enable the identification and evaluation of transmission facilities to meet such transmission needs. For purposes of this Attachment K, the Long-Term Scenarios are developed in accordance with Section 3.3 of this Attachment K.

“Long-Term Transmission Needs” means transmission needs identified through Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning by, among other, running Long-Term Scenarios and considering the Factor Categories set forth in Section 3.3.5.2 of this Attachment K.

“Material Adverse Impact” means one or more significant and verifiable adverse impacts on any Neighboring System that needs to be mitigated if it reduces the transfer capability of existing transmission facilities.

“Merchant Transmission Developer” means an entity that proposes a Merchant Transmission Project.

“Merchant Transmission Project” means an existing or planned project for which the costs are recovered or intended to be recovered through negotiated rates instead of cost-based rates and are therefore not eligible for cost allocation.

“Mitigation Cost” means the estimated total cost of the solution that is identified to mitigate the Material Adverse Impacts on a Neighboring System caused by a project identified in the Regional Combination, under Section 2.4.3 of this Attachment K.

“Neighboring System” means an electrically interconnected transmission system.

“NERC” means North America Electric Reliability Corporation or its successor.

“NERC Standard” means at any time any NERC Reliability Standard then in effect as adopted by NERC.

“NERC Entity” means at any time each entity (i) that is then located in the Transmission Provider’s balancing authority area, (ii) that then falls within a Functional Type, and (iii) to which any NERC Standard then applies.

“Non-Transmission Alternative” means an alternative that does not involve the construction of high voltage transmission facilities and that NorthernGrid has determined would result in the elimination or delay of a need by modifying the loads and/or resources reflected in the system assessments. Examples of such alternatives that may constitute Non-Transmission Alternatives include demand-side load reduction programs, peak-shaving projects, and distributed generation. The following examples are specifically excluded from Non-Transmission Alternatives: remedial action schemes, shunt capacitors, and reconductoring.

“Non-Enrolled Developer Agreement” means the current version of the form agreement attached hereto as Exhibit D and entered into with the Enrolled Parties; it is intended for use by Non-Incumbent Transmission Developers, ITP Proponents, and Merchant Transmission Developers, as required in Sections 2.2.2.3, 2.2.2.4, and 2.2.4 respectively, of this Attachment K. The Non-Enrolled Developer Agreement form is available on the NorthernGrid Website.

“Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer” refers to two categories of transmission developer: (1) a transmission developer that does not have a retail distribution service territory or footprint; and (2) a public utility transmission provider that proposes a transmission project outside of its existing retail distribution service territory or footprint, where it is not the incumbent for purposes of that project.

“Non-Jurisdictional Entity” means any entity that is within the definition of 16 U.S.C. § 824(f) (and hence is not a “public utility” under Part II of the Federal Power Act).

“NorthernGrid,” as described in Section 2.1 of this Attachment K, is an unincorporated association of entities that either own or operate, or that propose to own or operate, electric

transmission facilities in the Western Interconnection.

“NorthernGrid Website” is www.northerngrid.net.

“Order 1000” or “Order No. 1000” means the Commission’s Order No. 1000 (*Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation by Transmission Owning and Operating Public Utilities*, 136 FERC ¶ 61,051 (2011), *order on rehearing and clarification*, 139 FERC ¶ 61,132 (2012), *order on rehearing and clarification*, 141 FERC ¶ 61,044 (2012), *affirmed sub nom. S. C. Pub. Serv. Auth. v. FERC*, 762 F.3d 41 (D.C. Cir. 2014), as it may be amended, supplemented, or superseded from time to time.

“Plausible” means that each Long-Term Scenario must itself be reasonably probable, and collectively that the set of plausible scenarios must reasonably capture probable future outcomes.

“Person” means an individual, corporation, cooperative corporation, municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, joint operating entity, limited liability company, mutual association, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, association, joint stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, government entity or political subdivision thereof (including a federal power marketing administration), Federally-Recognized Tribes, or organization recognized as a legal entity by law in the United States or Canada.

“Planning Cycle” means the Regional Transmission Planning Cycle, or the Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle, as applicable.

“Planning Region” means each of the following transmission planning regions recognized by the Commission within the Western Interconnection: California Independent System Operator Corporation, NorthernGrid Enrolled Region, and WestConnect.

“Point-to-Point Customer” means an entity receiving service pursuant to the terms of the Transmission Provider’s Point-to-Point Transmission Service under Part II of the Tariff.

“Potential Cost Allocation Project” is a transmission project for which a Request for Cost Allocation has been properly submitted as explained in Section 2.3.2.3.2 and Section 2.3.2.3.3 of this Attachment K.

“Preliminary Cost Allocation Project” is a proposed Eligible Cost Allocation Project where the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio is calculated to be greater than or equal to 1.25, as explained in Section 2.6.5.2 of this Attachment K.

“Project for Cost Allocation Consideration” means that the Cost Allocation Task Force has confirmed that the Potential Cost Allocation Project has Estimated Costs exceeding \$20 million, as described in Section 2.6.1 of this Attachment K.

“Project Sponsor” is an Enrolled Party, a Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer, an ITP Proponent, or

a Merchant Transmission Developer who as proposed a new transmission project (each a “Sponsored Project”) for evaluation in a Planning Cycle, as explained in Section 2.3.2.3.1 of this Attachment K.

“Public Policy Requirement” means any applicable public policy requirement established through one or more enacted statutes or regulations promulgated by a relevant local, state or federal jurisdiction within the Enrolled Region. “Public Policy Requirements” is a collective reference to each “Public Policy Requirement.”

“Qualified Developer” means a Person that has satisfied the requirements of Section 2.5.1.3 of this Attachment K and intends to develop the project for which a Request for Cost Allocation is to be submitted.

“Qualified Sponsor” means a Project Sponsor that intends to submit a Request for Cost Allocation but does not intend to develop the project for which such Request for Cost Allocation is intended to be submitted.

“Qualifying Interconnection Project” means any generation interconnection-related Network Upgrade(s) that: (1) an Enrolled Party has identified in its interconnection studies to address interconnection-related transmission need(s) in at least two interconnection queue cycles (or in at least two individual interconnection studies for Transmission Providers that use a first-come, first-served serial generator interconnection process); (2) have a voltage of at least 200kV *and* an estimated cost of at least \$30 million; (3) have not been developed and are not currently planned to be developed because the interconnection request(s) driving the need for the network upgrade(s) has been withdrawn and no more than five calendar years have passed between the date of an earlier interconnection request withdrawal and the date of a later interconnection request withdrawal; (4) the Enrolled Party has not identified an interconnection-related Network Upgrade to address the relevant interconnection-related transmission need in an executed generator interconnection agreement or in a generator interconnection agreement that the interconnection customer requested that the transmission provider file unexecuted with the Commission; and (5) the interconnection request withdrawals associated with the identified interconnection-related transmission need occurred no earlier than seven calendar years prior to the commencement date of the applicable Regional Transmission Planning Cycle.

“Regional Benefits for Purposes of Interregional Cost Allocation” means, with respect to an ITP, an amount equal to the sum of the aggregate Benefits calculated in accordance with the provisions of Sections 2.6.4 of this Attachment K for any Enrolled Party Beneficiary(ies) of such ITP.

“Regional Combination” means combinations of the Baseline Projects of Enrolled Parties and Alternative Projects where there may be a combination that effectively satisfies all Enrolled Party Needs, consistent with Section 2.4.3, of this Attachment K.

“Regional Planning Horizon” means the ten-year planning horizon considered in a given Regional Transmission Planning Cycle.

“Regional Transmission Plan” or “Plan” means the regional transmission plan developed during each biennial Regional Transmission Planning Cycle pursuant to this Attachment K.

“Regional Transmission Planning Cycle” means each two-year period beginning on January 1 of even numbered years and ending on December 31 of odd numbered years, undertaken by NorthernGrid, to create the Regional Transmission Plan.

“Relevant Planning Regions” means, with respect to an ITP, the Planning Regions that would directly interconnect electrically with such ITP, unless and until such time as a Relevant Planning Region determines that such ITP will not meet any of its regional transmission needs.

“Request for Cost Allocation” means a request for a Sponsored Project and Un-sponsored Project to be considered for cost allocation that is submitted in accordance with Section 2.3.2.3.2 and Section 2.3.2.3.3 of this Attachment K.

“Required Benefits” means the benefits identified in Section 3.4.3 of this Attachment K that are measured for each Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility under each Long-Term Scenario.

“Right-Sized Replacement Transmission Facility” means a new transmission facility that (1) would replace an existing transmission facility operating at or above 200 kV identified by a Transmission Provider in its in-kind replacement estimate as one that it plans to replace with an in-kind replacement transmission facility; (2) would increase the capacity of that existing transmission facility; and (3) would be located in the same general route as, or use or expand the existing rights-of-way of, the existing transmission facility that a transmission provider has identified for replacement in its in-kind replacement estimate.

“Right-Sizing” means the process of modifying a Transmission Provider’s estimated in-kind replacement of an existing transmission facility to instead increase that facility’s transfer capability.

“Single System Project” means any modification of a single Transmission System that:

- (i) is for the purpose of meeting a Need that impacts only such single Transmission System;
- (ii) does not result in Material Adverse Impacts on any transmission system; and
- (iii) is included as a Single System Project in a Plan.

“State-Approved Integrated Resource Plan” means any Integrated Resource Plan or similar resource plan developed by an Enrolled Party and submitted to a state regulatory authority with jurisdiction over such Enrolled Party for review and/or approval. For avoidance of doubt, “State-Approved Integrated Resource Plan” includes any Integrated Resource Plan or similar resource plan developed by an Enrolled Party and reviewed, but not approved, through a retail proceeding in a jurisdiction where the retail regulator does not formally approve such plans.

“Study Scope” means the range of items to be considered in performing analysis and studies to develop the Regional Transmission Plan as described in Section 2.4.1 of this Attachment K.

“Submittal Window” begins on January 1 and runs through March 31 of even numbered years in each Regional Transmission Planning Cycle. In Planning Cycles where the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is conducting a Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan, the January 1 to March 31 Submittal Window will be shared by both the Regional and Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan (i.e. year 1, quarter 1 of the 4-year cycle).

“Total Project Cost” means the sum of the Estimated Cost and the Mitigation Cost (as either may be adjusted by the Cost Allocation Task Force, using the WECC Transmission Capital Costs Calculator or some other recognized means) of a project that is not an ITP or the Assigned Regional Costs from Interregional Cost Allocation of a project that is an ITP.

“Total Regional Costs from Interregional Cost Allocation” means, with respect to an ITP, the sum of the Assigned Regional Costs from Interregional Cost Allocation of such ITP plus any Additional Regional Costs from Interregional Cost Allocation of such ITP.

“Transmission Switching” is the opening or closing of transmission elements to safely route power and direct flows away from congestion, based on pre-existing forward analysis.

“Transmission System” means, for purposes of this Attachment K only, the existing or proposed transmission facilities of a transmission provider (depending upon context, the Transmission Provider or an Enrolled Party); *provided that* Transmission System specifically excludes any existing or proposed transmission facilities in any Planning Region other than the Enrolled Region.

“Western Electricity Coordinating Council” or “WECC” means the Western Electricity Coordinating Council or any successor entity.

“Western Interconnection” refers to the western interconnected electric grid in North America. It spans 14 western states in the United States, the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, and the northern portion of Baja California in Mexico.

SECTION 1 Local Planning Process

[Reserved for Member's Local Transmission Planning Process]

SECTION 2. Regional Transmission Planning Process

2.1 Introduction

NorthernGrid is an unincorporated association of entities that either own or operate, or that propose to own or operate, electric transmission facilities in the Western Interconnection. NorthernGrid promotes coordinated, open, and transparent transmission planning and facilitates compliance with certain Commission transmission planning directives for the Enrolled Parties. Transmission Provider participates in NorthernGrid's transmission planning processes as set forth in this Attachment K.

NorthernGrid is to develop a Regional Transmission Plan each Planning Cycle as described in this Attachment K. Each Planning Cycle considers a ten-year planning horizon ("Regional Planning Horizon") to commence on the first day of that Planning Cycle. The Regional Transmission Plan is not intended to be a construction plan; however, the Regional Transmission Plan is intended to provide insight and information regarding regional transmission planning.

Section 2, 3 and 4 of Attachment K set forth NorthernGrid's Enrolled Region process to be used in developing the Regional Transmission Plan. Section 5 of Attachment K addresses local and regional economic study requests.

2.2 Participation and Information Access

2.2.1 Enrolled Parties

2.2.1.1 Identification

The Enrolled Parties are:

Avista Corporation;
Idaho Power Company;
MATL LLP;
NorthWestern Corporation;
NV Energy;
PacifiCorp;
Portland General Electric Company; and
Puget Sound Energy, Inc.

2.2.1.2 Updates to Enrolled Parties List

Transmission Provider is to revise the list of Enrolled Parties in Section 2.2.1.1 of this Attachment K to add any entity that enrolls pursuant to Section 2.2.2.2, or to remove any entity that withdraws (or is deemed to have withdrawn) as an Enrolled Party.

2.2.2 Becoming an Enrolled Party

2.2.2.1 Eligibility

Any Person that satisfies the requirements of sub-sections (i) and (ii) is eligible to and may seek to become an Enrolled Party.

- (i) The Person owns or operates, or proposes to own or operate, transmission facilities in the United States portion of the Western Interconnection.
- (ii) The Person's transmission facilities (whether owned, operated or proposed) within the United States portion of the Western Interconnection are (or are proposed to be) electrically interconnected with another Enrolled Party's transmission facilities or the transmission facilities of a Non-Jurisdictional Entity that utilizes NorthernGrid for transmission planning.

2.2.2.2 Process to become an Enrolled Party

A Person shall demonstrate eligibility and request to become an Enrolled Party by submitting a completed application form, which is available on the NorthernGrid Website, in accordance with the instructions contained on the form.

The Person becomes an Enrolled Party on the date it satisfies the requirements of subsections (i), (ii), and (iii) below.

- (i) The Person demonstrates eligibility pursuant to Section 2.2.2.1.
- (ii) The Person places into effect either an Attachment K to its Open Access Transmission Tariff if the Commission requires the Person to have an Open Access Transmission Tariff, or in the case of a Non-Jurisdictional Entity, executes an agreement that is consistent with this Tariff that defines NorthernGrid's processes for producing a Regional Transmission Plan, Enrolled Party responsibilities, and stakeholder involvement.
- (iii) The Person becomes a party to the Funding Agreement.

2.2.2.3 Process for Non-Incumbent Transmission Developers to Participate

Provided it is not an Enrolled Party, a Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer that intends to propose a transmission project for evaluation and potential selection into the regional plan in accordance with Section 2.3.2.3 must first execute a Non-Enrolled Developer Agreement in the form of Exhibit D, attached hereto, and pay the study fee indicated in that agreement.

2.2.2.4 Process for Interregional Transmission Project Proponents to Participate

Provided it is not an Enrolled Party, an Interregional Transmission Project Proponent that intends to propose an ITP for evaluation and potential selection into the regional transmission plan in accordance with Section 2.3.2.3 must first execute a Non-Enrolled Developer Agreement in the form of Exhibit D, attached hereto.

2.2.2.5 Duration of Enrollment for Enrolled Parties

Enrolled Party status is retained, unless or until such time as the entity withdraws, or is deemed to have withdrawn, in accordance with Section 2.2.3 of this Attachment K.

2.2.2.6 Expectations of an Enrolled Party

Each Person that becomes an Enrolled Party pursuant to Section 2.2.2.2 is expected to actively participate in the transmission planning processes set forth in this Attachment K.

2.2.3 Withdrawal of Enrolled Party

2.2.3.1 Notice of Enrolled Party Withdrawal

Any Enrolled Party may withdraw from being an Enrolled Party by providing written notice of withdrawal to the Enrolled Parties' representative chair of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee, at the address listed on the NorthernGrid Website, and to each other Enrolled Party, at the address listed for each Enrolled Party on NorthernGrid's Website.

2.2.3.2 Effective Date of Notice of Withdrawal

If an Enrolled Party provides notice of withdrawal in accordance with Section 2.2.3.1, such withdrawal will be effective the end of the Planning Cycle in which such written notice of withdrawal is received by the Enrolled Parties' representative chair of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee; *provided, however*, if the withdrawing Enrolled Party is a Non-Jurisdictional Entity, such withdrawal shall be effective upon the receipt, by the Enrolled Parties' chair of the Enrolled Parties' Planning Committee, of the written notice of withdrawal from such Enrolled Party.

2.2.3.3 Deemed Withdrawal

Any Person enrolled as an Enrolled Party pursuant to Section 2.2.2.2 must remain a party to the Funding Agreement. If an Enrolled Party ceases being a party to the Funding Agreement, such Enrolled Party shall be deemed to have withdrawn as an Enrolled Party thirty (30) calendar days after the date such Enrolled Party ceases being a party to the Funding Agreement.

2.2.3.4 Significance of Withdrawal

Upon the effective date of withdrawal or deemed withdrawal of an Enrolled Party, all rights and obligations of the withdrawing Enrolled Party under this Attachment K shall terminate; provided that all obligations and liabilities of such withdrawing Enrolled Party, including any obligation with regard to any Total Project Cost allocated to such Enrolled Party in accordance with Section 2.6.5.4 of this Attachment K, accrued prior to the date upon which withdrawal of such Enrolled Party is effective, as provided in Section 2.2.3.2 or 2.2.3.3 (as applicable), are preserved until satisfied.

2.2.4 Participation by Merchant Transmission Developer

A Merchant Transmission Developer that has either executed the Funding Agreement or executed a Non-Enrolled Developer Agreement in the form of Exhibit D, attached hereto, and paid a study fee in accordance with such agreement, may submit a Merchant Transmission Project into the Planning Cycle in accordance with Section 2.3.2.3.4.

2.2.5 Stakeholder Participation

Any Person may attend public meetings, and any Person may submit comments to materials published on the NorthernGrid Website for public comment according to the instructions included with the materials. NorthernGrid is to post notice of the public meeting on the NorthernGrid Website at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of such meeting. The meeting notice will identify the date, time, and location of the meeting.

2.2.6 Engagement of States

State participation in the processes in this Attachment K is described in the Enrolled Parties and States Committee Charter.

2.2.7 Sensitive Information

2.2.7.1 Protocols for Treatment and Labeling of CEII or Confidential Information

Any Person seeking to participate in the processes of this Attachment K must adhere to the rules and/or guidelines established by the Enrolled Parties concerning CEII or Confidential Information. Those rules and any guidelines will be posted on the NorthernGrid Website and updated as necessary. Confidential Information and CEII must be clearly marked as such.

2.2.7.2 Requesting and Processing Information Requests

A Person may request information from NorthernGrid by completing and submitting a written request form available on the NorthernGrid Website, specifying the information being requested. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to determine whether any of the requested information includes

CEII or Confidential Information. NorthernGrid is to provide to the requestor the information requested that NorthernGrid does not identify as information that includes any CEII or Confidential Information.

If the requested information includes CEII or Confidential Information, NorthernGrid is to notify the requestor in writing that information requested by such requestor includes CEII or Confidential Information and that the requestor must comply with restrictions imposed on access to and use of such data (such as a non-disclosure agreement) by the entity that owns such data. NorthernGrid is, to the extent practicable, to inform the requestor of the entities with which it must enter into a non-disclosure agreement. To the extent any other entity's Confidential Information is contained within the work product of NorthernGrid, any non-disclosure agreements must be obtained with such entity prior to disclosure of Confidential Information by NorthernGrid.

The requestor shall work with each entity, as applicable, to execute non-disclosure agreements. Once NorthernGrid has received confirmation that applicable non-disclosure agreements have been executed, it is to provide the Confidential Information or CEII to the requestor. In no event shall the Transmission Provider or NorthernGrid be required to produce or provide to any Person information in violation of any applicable law, regulation, or other legal requirement.

2.3 Data Gathering/Study Scope Inputs

2.3.1 Responsibility

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to gather data to prepare the Study Scope and perform certain evaluations as set forth in this Attachment K.

2.3.2 Data Gathering for the Regional Transmission Plan

2.3.2.1 General from Stakeholders

Any stakeholder may submit data, including projects, for evaluation as part of the preparation of the Draft Regional Transmission Plan to address Enrolled Party Needs, including such needs driven by Public Policy Requirements to address such Enrolled Party Needs. Projects submitted by stakeholders or derived from stakeholder information may become Sponsored Projects that may be submitted for evaluation and/or cost allocation pursuant to Section 2.3.2.3.1 or 2.3.2.3.2, or they may be submitted for evaluation and cost allocation pursuant to Section 2.3.2.3.3. A stakeholder shall use the Data Submittal Form to submit data and may use Table A, in Section 2.3.2.3.5, as guidance for the types of data to be submitted. Stakeholders shall submit such data to NorthernGrid consistent with the instructions available on the NorthernGrid Website, within the Submittal Window. Stakeholders may also submit such data to NorthernGrid consistent with the instructions available on the NorthernGrid Website within the sixty (60) day time period for submitting

additional information under Section 2.4.2. Untimely submissions will not be considered.

2.3.2.2 Enrolled Party Information for the Regional Transmission Plan

Each Enrolled Party is to submit the following information to NorthernGrid within the Submittal Window:

- (i) Its Local Transmission Plan, that has proceeded through the Assumptions Meeting, Needs Meeting, and Solutions Meeting, and the data required by Section 2.3.2.3.5 for any local project that is to be evaluated by the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee;
- (ii) Any local project the Enrolled Party is identifying and submitting appropriate evidence for, such that the project may be evaluated by the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee for possible classification as a Committed Project;
- (iii) Data used to develop its Local Transmission Plan, including projections of network customer loads and resources, projected point-to-point transmission service forecast information, existing and planned demand response resources;
- (iv) Updates to previously submitted data;
- (v) Enrolled Party Needs, including such needs driven by Public Policy Requirements; and
- (vi) Any Qualifying Interconnection Project(s); and
- (vii) Any other project that such Enrolled Party intends to propose for evaluation in the Planning Cycle.

2.3.2.3 Proposing a Project

2.3.2.3.1 New Sponsored Projects

An Enrolled Party, a Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer, an ITP Proponent, or a Merchant Transmission Developer (each individually referred to as a Project Sponsor) may propose a new transmission project (each a “Sponsored Project”) for evaluation in a Planning Cycle. At a minimum, the data identified in Table A must be submitted for each project being proposed. For any project submitted for possible classification as a Committed Project, the Project Sponsor must demonstrate, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee, that the project is a Committed Project. Failure to do so will result in the project being evaluated in the normal course, during the Planning Cycle.

2.3.2.3.2 Request for Cost Allocation - Sponsored Project

An Enrolled Party, a Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer, and an ITP Proponent that is deemed a Qualified Sponsor or otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Developer in accordance with Section 2.5 below, may propose a Sponsored Project for evaluation and potential selection in the Regional Transmission Plan for purposes of cost allocation; provided, however, that Non-Transmission Alternatives are not eligible to be selected for purposes of cost allocation.

A Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer shall use the Data Submittal Form to submit data and may use Table A below, as guidance for the types of data to be submitted. Qualified Sponsors/Qualified Developers shall submit such data to NorthernGrid within the Submittal Window, or to the extent such submission is related to additional information submitted in accordance with Section 2.4.2, within fifteen (15) days after the close of the sixty (60) day period for submitting data pursuant to Section 2.4.2, consistent with the instructions available on the NorthernGrid Website. Untimely submissions will not be considered.

A transmission project for which a Request for Cost Allocation has been properly submitted is referred to as a "Potential Cost Allocation Project." A Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer may withdraw its Request for Cost Allocation at any time by providing written notice to the chair of the Cost Allocation Task Force. In the event that all Qualified Sponsors/Qualified Developers of a specific Potential Cost Allocation Project withdraw their Request(s) for Cost Allocation, such project shall no longer be eligible, during the then-current Planning Cycle, for consideration to become a Cost Allocation Project in the Regional Transmission Plan.

2.3.2.3.3 Request for Cost Allocation – Un-sponsored Project

Any Enrolled Party, Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer, or ITP Proponent (only with regard to unsponsored projects that are ITPs) may propose an unsponsored transmission project for evaluation and potential selection into the Regional Transmission Plan for purposes of cost allocation. However, each unsponsored project is dependent upon an otherwise Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer to submit a Request for Cost Allocation on behalf of the unsponsored project. A transmission project for which a Request for Cost Allocation has been properly submitted is referred to as a "Potential Cost Allocation Project." If no Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer submits a Request for Cost Allocation for an otherwise unsponsored transmission project, such unsponsored project will be removed from the Regional Transmission Plan.

Any Enrolled Party, Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer, or ITP Proponent proposing an unsponsored transmission project for evaluation and potential selection into the Regional Transmission Plan for purposes of cost allocation, shall use the Data Submittal Form to submit relevant data about the project and shall use Table A and Section 2.3.2.3.6 below, for the types of data to be submitted. Such data shall be submitted to NorthernGrid within the Submittal Window, or to the extent such submission is related to additional information submitted in accordance with Section 2.4.2, within fifteen (15) days after the close of the sixty (60) day period for submitting data pursuant to Section 2.4.2, consistent with the instructions available on the NorthernGrid Website. Untimely submissions will not be considered.

If a Request for Cost Allocation is made on behalf of an unsponsored project, such request may later be withdrawn by the Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer who requested cost allocation by providing written notice to the chair of the Cost Allocation Task Force. If the Request for Cost Allocation is withdrawn, such unsponsored project shall no longer be eligible, during the then-current Planning Cycle, for consideration to become a Cost Allocation Project in the Regional Transmission Plan.

2.3.2.3.4 Merchant Transmission Projects

A Merchant Transmission Developer may submit a Merchant Transmission Project for evaluation in the Planning Cycle by submitting the data identified in Table A below, to be submitted by Merchant Developers, and thereby have its project recognized as a “Sponsored Project.” However, Merchant Transmission Projects shall not be considered for cost allocation.

2.3.2.3.5 Minimum Data Submittal Requirements (“Project Data” or “Table A”)

Table A. Project Data Requirements			
	Data/Information to be provided	Everyone except Merchant Transmission Developers	Merchant Transmission Developers
A	Proposed project name and name of Project Sponsor; if project is an unsponsored project, please clearly label project as “Unsponsored”; if project is a Qualifying Interconnection Project, clearly label project as “Qualifying Interconnection Project”;	Y	Y
B	Whether or not project is claimed to be a Committed Project	Y	Y
C	Whether Project Sponsor intends to request cost allocation	Y	N

Table A. Project Data Requirements			
	Data/Information to be provided	Everyone except Merchant Transmission Developers	Merchant Transmission Developers
D	Identify the Enrolled Party Needs to be addressed and whether any such Enrolled Party Needs are driven by Public Policy Requirements	Y	Optional
E	Identify location of project, including map of proposed route	Y	Y
F	Any new facilities comprising the project (e.g., new substations and transmission lines)	Y	Y
G	Voltage level (including AC or DC)	Y	Y
H	Structure type (wood, steel, single-circuit, double-circuit, etc.)	Y	Y
I	Conductor type, mileage, configuration, and electrical parameters of components as necessary to model them accurately in power flow simulations (e.g., resistance, reactance, charging, ratings, etc.)	Y	Y
J	Project terminal facilities and any reactive elements (in MVAR)	Y	Y
K	“Estimated Cost” of project, and if available, the associated annual revenue requirement and underlying assumptions (such as annual return (both debt and equity), depreciation, taxes other than income, operation and maintenance expense, and income taxes)	Y	Optional
L	Development schedule of the project	Y	Y
M	Planned in-service date of the project	Y	Y
N	Whether the project is being proposed as an Interregional Transmission Project (ITP)	Y	N
O	If the project is an Interregional Transmission Project, a list of all Relevant Planning Regions to which the Interregional Transmission Project has been, or is to be, submitted for evaluation	Y	N
P	Whether the project is a Merchant Transmission Project	N	Y
Q	Additional technical studies and analysis, if performed	Y	Y
R	Economic Considerations ¹	Y	Optional

If the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee determines that additional information is necessary or appropriate, it may request the additional

¹ Provide data supporting the economic considerations (rather than load service, reliability or Public Policy Requirements) that are driving the project. Economic considerations include but are not limited to a search for lower cost power or marketing opportunities for power or transmission service.

information at any time and the Project Sponsor shall promptly provide such other information as may reasonably be requested.

2.3.2.3.6 Additional Information about Potential Cost Allocation Projects

Within fifteen (15) calendar days of submitting a Request for Cost Allocation for a Potential Cost Allocation Project in accordance with Section 2.3.2.3.2, the Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer of such Potential Cost Allocation Project shall, to the extent not already provided, submit the following additional information about the Potential Cost Allocation Project:

- (i) Qualified Sponsor's/Qualified Developer's anticipated role regarding the Potential Cost Allocation Project (e.g., intends to be the developer, owner, and/or operator of the Potential Cost Allocation Project) and the identity of any other entity that proposes to participate in the development, ownership, or operation of the Potential Cost Allocation Project;
- (ii) Required steps for developing the Potential Cost Allocation Project, such as granting of state, federal, and local approvals and obtaining easements necessary to develop and construct the Potential Cost Allocation Project so as to timely meet the Enrolled Party Need(s), and the current status regarding any such steps;
- (iii) Anticipated transfer capability or path rating increase associated with the Potential Cost Allocation Project;
- (iv) A list of new facility outages that should be analyzed as a result of the Potential Cost Allocation Project; and
- (v) All data underlying the calculation of Estimated Costs; must share sufficient detail to allow the Cost Allocation Task Force to determine the Annualized Cost of the Potential Cost Allocation Project (Note: Estimated Costs may be compared to the WECC Transmission Capital Costs Calculator or some other recognized tool).

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee or the Cost Allocation Task Force may request additional information at any time and the Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer shall promptly provide such other information as may reasonably be requested.

2.3.2.3.7 Submitting and Updating Sponsored Projects (not including Cost Allocation Projects) included in the prior Regional Transmission Plan

Any Sponsored Project included in the prior Regional Transmission Plan for which the Project Sponsor does not intend to request cost allocation in the current Planning Cycle must be re-submitted as a Sponsored Project within the Submittal Window, along with updates to the information required by Table A, to be considered in the then-current Planning Cycle. To the extent a Project Sponsor fails to submit updated information identified in Table A, then only that information readily available to the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall be utilized. Sponsored Projects included in the prior Regional Transmission Plan will no longer be included in the Regional Transmission Plan for the current Planning Cycle if:

- (i) Such project no longer satisfies an Enrolled Party Need; or
- (ii) The Project Sponsor has withdrawn its project.

2.3.2.3.8 Updating Previous Cost Allocation Projects included in the prior Regional Transmission Plan

The previously Qualified Developer of any Cost Allocation Project selected in the prior Regional Transmission Plan must again qualify in the current Planning Cycle as a Qualified Developer under Section 2.5.1.2 by submitting, within the Submittal Window, updates to the information required by Table B, until such Cost Allocation Project either (i) is no longer to be included in a Regional Transmission Plan or (ii) has been demonstrated by the Qualified Developer to be a Committed Project. Updates to the information listed in Table A and Section 2.3.2.3.6 is also requested. However, to the extent a Qualified Developer fails to submit updated information identified in Table A and Section 2.3.2.3.6, only that information that is readily available to the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee and the Cost Allocation Task Force shall be utilized. Cost Allocation Projects selected in the prior Regional Transmission Plan will not be included in the Regional Transmission Plan as a Cost Allocation Project for the current Planning Cycle if, in the Planning Cycle, it is determined that:

- (i) All who originally submitted a Request for Cost Allocation on behalf of such project no longer satisfy the criteria in the current Planning Cycle as Qualified Developers under Section 2.5.1.2;
- (ii) Such project no longer satisfies an Enrolled Party Need;
- (iii) All that properly submitted a Request for Cost Allocation with respect to such Cost Allocation Project have withdrawn their Requests for Cost Allocation;

- (iv) The project is no longer determined to be a more efficient or cost-effective solution to an Enrolled Party Need; or
- (v) Such project has been in the Regional Transmission Plan for three successive Planning Cycles and the Qualified Developer has not demonstrated that such project has achieved the status of being a Committed Project.

2.3.2.4 Submittal Form and Due Date

All data/information, including Request for Cost Allocation, submitted pursuant to the requirements described in Sections 2.3.2.1 through 2.3.2.3 shall be submitted within the Submittal Window to NorthernGrid using the Data Submittal Form (available on the NorthernGrid Website), consistent with the instructions available on the NorthernGrid Website.

2.3.2.5 Use of Submitted Information

By submitting data/information pursuant to this Attachment K, the submitting entity authorizes the use of the information in all NorthernGrid processes without compensation in any form. Any data/information made available or otherwise provided shall be “AS IS” and any reliance on such information is at one’s own risk, without warranty and without any liability of NorthernGrid (or any committee or committee members of NorthernGrid), Transmission Provider, or any entity supplying information.

2.3.3 Review of Submitted Information

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to review the information submitted in accordance with Section 2.3.2.3. If a Project Sponsor/Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer fails to meet the information requirements set forth in Section 2.3.2.3, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to notify the Project Sponsor/Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer of the reasons for such failure. Each Project Sponsor/Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer shall have an opportunity to remedy deficiencies in their submitted data/information. If a Project Sponsor/Qualified Sponsor/Qualified Developer fails to fully remedy such deficiencies by the first April 15th of the Planning Cycle, that Project Sponsor’s/Qualified Sponsor’s/Qualified Developer’s proposed transmission project and/or Request for Cost Allocation shall be deemed withdrawn.

2.3.4 Untimely or Improperly Submitted Requests or Submittals of Information

Untimely (i.e., information received by NorthernGrid prior to the opening of the Submittal Window or after the Submittal Window has closed, with the exception of (i) information submitted no later than fifteen (15) days after the close of the Submittal Window to remedy a deficiency notice from the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee or (ii) additional data, including projects, for evaluation as part of the preparation of the Draft Regional Transmission Plan to address Enrolled Party Needs identified in the draft

Study Scope that is submitted in accordance with Section 2.4.2) or improperly submitted requests made pursuant to Section 2.3.2.3, will not be considered.

2.4 Development of Draft Regional Transmission Plan

2.4.1 Study Scope Development

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to develop a draft Study Scope. The draft Study Scope shall describe:

- a. Projects submitted, and data gathered in accordance with Section 2.3.2;
- b. Any Committed Projects (If any project included in the prior Regional Transmission Plan is determined by the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee to be a Committed Project, such project shall be included in the Draft Regional Transmission Plan as a Committed Project and shall not be subject to further evaluation in this Planning Cycle);
- c. The detailed study methodology;
- d. Reliability criteria to be considered;
- e. Enrolled Party Needs, including needs driven by Public Policy Requirements;
- f. Assumptions (including loads, resources, desired flows, constraints);
- g. Baseline Projects of Enrolled Parties;
- h. Each Alternative Project to be considered;
- i. Each Grid Enhancing Technology and other Non-Transmission Alternative to be considered;
- j. Databases to be utilized;
- k. Evaluation scenarios; and
- l. Qualifying Interconnection Projects (The initial evaluation of Qualifying Interconnection Projects will occur in the first regional transmission planning and cost allocation cycle after the effective date of the tariff revisions implementing Order 1920. The Enrolled Parties need not evaluate Qualifying Interconnection Projects that have been evaluated in a previous regional transmission planning and cost allocation cycle. The interconnection request withdrawals associated with the Qualifying Interconnection Projects need occurred no earlier than five calendar years prior to the commencement date of the regional transmission planning and cost allocation cycle).

2.4.2 Review and Comment; Consideration of Comments; Update Study Scope

Upon completion of the development of the draft Study Scope, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to post the draft Study Scope on the NorthernGrid Website.

Thereafter, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to schedule a public meeting to review the draft Study Scope and solicit comments from stakeholders and the Enrolled Parties and States Committee. NorthernGrid is to post the draft Study Scope and notice of the public meeting on the NorthernGrid Website at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of such meeting.

At the public meeting, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to present the draft Study Scope to stakeholders and the Enrolled Parties and States Committee for comment. Stakeholders and the Enrolled Parties and States Committee have fifteen (15) calendar days following the meeting to submit written comments on the draft Study Scope. NorthernGrid is to:

- a. Post any written comments received;
- b. Post any responses to written comments within fifteen (15) calendar days after the comment period closes; *provided* that either chair of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may extend the time for posting such responses to the extent necessary to allow time to adequately consider and respond; and
- c. Make modifications in response to comments received, as the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee deems appropriate, and finalize the Study Scope.

In addition to the opportunity to comment on the draft Study Scope in accordance with this Section, stakeholders shall also have sixty (60) days following the posting of the draft Study Scope to submit additional data, including projects, for evaluation as part of the preparation of the Draft Regional Transmission Plan to address Enrolled Party Needs identified in the draft Study Scope, including such needs driven by Public Policy Requirements to address such Enrolled Party Needs. Stakeholders shall use the Data Submittal Form to submit data and may use Table A, in Section 2.3.2.3.5, as guidance for the types of data to be submitted. Stakeholders shall submit such data to NorthernGrid consistent with the instructions available on the NorthernGrid Website, within the sixty (60) day period set forth in this Section. Untimely submissions will not be considered.

After considering comments, and any additional information submitted pursuant to this Section, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may modify the draft Study Scope and is to finalize the Study Scope. NorthernGrid is to post the final Study Scope on the NorthernGrid Website. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to document its analysis and results in the Draft Regional Transmission Plan, including the rationale for selecting and excluding transmission needs driven by Public Policy Requirements.

2.4.3 Analysis; Documentation in Draft Regional Transmission Plan

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to evaluate combinations of the Baseline Projects of Enrolled Parties and Alternative Projects to identify whether there may be a combination that effectively satisfies all Enrolled Party Needs ("Regional Combination"). If a project does not meet any Enrolled Party Need, it will not be considered by Enrolled Parties for inclusion in the Draft Regional Transmission Plan.

Once the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee becomes aware of a Material Adverse Impact on a Neighboring System caused by a Sponsored Project or Alternative Project identified in the Regional Combination, the Project Sponsor is to coordinate with the Neighboring Systems to assess the facilities necessary to mitigate the Material Adverse Impact on the Neighboring Systems. If the Material Adverse Impact cannot be mitigated (by actions within the Enrolled Region or the Neighboring Systems), or the Project Sponsor does not identify solutions to mitigate the Material Adverse Impact on the Neighboring Systems, the Sponsored Project or Alternative Project identified in the Regional Combination will not be selected into the Draft Regional Transmission Plan. The Project Sponsor will provide the Mitigation Cost for each Material Adverse Impact to the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will review and adjust the Mitigation Cost for each project and then associate the Mitigation Cost of each Material Adverse Impact to each project causing the Material Adverse Impact. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to document its analysis and results in the Draft Regional Transmission Plan.

The evaluation process shall consider the following factors to ensure that the process is transparent and not unduly discriminatory or preferential:

- Solutions to meet the Regional Transmission Needs of the system, including consideration of the following alternative Grid Enhancing Technologies (on either new or existing transmission facilities) for each identified transmission need when evaluating regional transmission facilities for potential selection: (1) Dynamic Line Ratings; (2) Advanced Power Flow Control Devices; (3) Advanced Conductors; and (4) Transmission Switching. Consideration means the Transmission Provider will determine whether it may be more efficient or cost-effective to incorporate the enumerated alternative transmission technologies into both new regional transmission facilities and upgrades to existing transmission facilities than selecting additional new facilities or not incorporating such technologies into new facilities. As part of the NorthernGrid selection process, it will provide explanation in sufficient detail for stakeholders to understand why an enhanced technology was or was not selected into the Regional Transmission Plan.

2.4.4 Review and Comment; Consideration of Comments; Update Draft Regional Transmission Plan

Upon development of the Draft Regional Transmission Plan, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to post the Draft Regional Transmission Plan on the NorthernGrid Website. Thereafter, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to schedule a public meeting to review the Draft Regional Transmission Plan and solicit comments from stakeholders and the Enrolled Parties and States Committee. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to post the Draft Regional Transmission Plan and notice of the public meeting on the NorthernGrid Website at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of such meeting.

At the public meeting, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to present the Draft Regional Transmission Plan to stakeholders and the Enrolled Parties and States Committee for comment. Stakeholders and the Enrolled Parties and States Committee

have fifteen (15) calendar days following the meeting to submit written comments on the Draft Regional Transmission Plan. Comments may include changes to the data provided pursuant to Section 2.3.2.

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to:

- a. Post any written comments received;
- b. Post any responses to written comments within fifteen (15) calendar days after the comment period closes; provided that the Enrolled Party chair of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may extend the time for posting such responses to the extent necessary to allow time to adequately consider and respond; and
- c. Make modifications in response to comments received, as the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee deems appropriate, to the Study Scope based upon additional information about new or changed circumstances related to loads, resources, transmission projects or Alternative Solutions, or identified changes to data provided and then, based upon the updated Study Scope, update the analysis performed in accordance with Section 2.4.3 “Analysis; Documentation in the Draft Regional Transmission Plan”; and
- d. Make modifications in response to comments received and/or make modifications resulting from the updated analysis performed in accordance with sub-section (c) above, as the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee deems appropriate, to the Draft Regional Transmission Plan.

2.4.5 Comparability

In developing the Study Scope and the Draft Regional Transmission Plan, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to consider all timely submitted information, including information and comments received from stakeholders, comparably to address Enrolled Party Needs including reliability requirements, economic considerations, and Public Policy Requirements.

2.5 Qualifying to Request Cost Allocation

2.5.1 Qualification Process for/to Submit a Project for Cost Allocation

2.5.1.1 Qualification to Request Cost Allocation

Any Enrolled Party, Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer (that has satisfied the requirements of Section 2.2.2.3), or ITP Proponent (that has satisfied the requirements of Section 2.2.2.4) that does not intend to develop the project for which it intends to submit a Request for Cost Allocation, is deemed a Qualified Sponsor. Any Enrolled Party, Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer (that has satisfied the requirements of Section 2.2.2.3) or ITP Proponent (that has satisfied the requirements of Section 2.2.2.4) that does intend to develop the

project for which it intends to submit a Request for Cost Allocation must first qualify in accordance with Section 2.5.1.2 to become a Qualified Developer.

2.5.1.2 Qualification Process

Any Enrolled Party, Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer (that has satisfied the requirements of Section 2.2.2.3) or ITP Proponent (that has satisfied the requirements of Section 2.2.2.4) that intends to develop a project for which it intends to submit a Request for Cost Allocation must submit, within the Submittal Window, the qualification data described in Table B below, through the NorthernGrid Website, using the Developer Qualification Data Form found on the NorthernGrid Website.

Table B. Developer Qualification Data Requirements		
Category	Information to be Provided	Criteria for Evaluation of Information
Project Sponsor's Identification	1. name 2. address 3. primary contact information, including: (i) name and title (ii) phone number (iii) address (iv) email address	Assess whether required data was submitted.
Project Sponsor's Experience	1. years in business 2. description of any relevant experience, including management and technical experience, developing, constructing, owning, and/or operating a project of similar size and scope as the Sponsored Project	Assess whether information indicates experience, including managerial and technical expertise in developing, constructing (or managing construction), owning, and/or operating comparable projects.
Reliance on Third Parties	1. identification of any third parties that the Project Sponsor intends to rely on for management, development, operating, or technical expertise 2. description of the expertise the third party is expected to provide 3. information from which such third party's financial ability to perform can be evaluated, which may include information substantially similar to the information listed with regard to the Project Sponsor's financial ability below	Assess whether information indicates the third party has experience, including managerial and technical expertise in developing, constructing (or managing construction), and/or operating comparable projects.
Project Sponsor's Financials	1. demonstrate that Project Sponsor, or Project Sponsor's parent, has either an investment grade rating or has a minimum	Assess whether the information was submitted and satisfied the criteria.

Table B. Developer Qualification Data Requirements		
Category	Information to be Provided	Criteria for Evaluation of Information
	tangible net worth of \$1,000,000 or total assets of \$10,000,000 2. provide information from which Project Sponsor's creditworthiness can be evaluated, which may include the following (to the extent they exist): (i) most recent annual report (ii) most recent quarterly report (iii) last two most recent audited year-end financial statements (iv) rating agency reports (v) any material issues that could affect the credit rating, including any pending or expected litigation or investigations (vi) other information supporting Project Sponsor's financial ability	
Affirmation	a signed affirmation by an authorized officer of Project Sponsor that the information provided under this Section is true, accurate, and complete to the best of such authorized officer's knowledge and belief	Assess whether the information was submitted.

2.5.1.3 Evaluation of Project Sponsor Submissions

The data submitted pursuant to Section 2.5.1.2 shall be evaluated to determine whether such entity has the minimum qualifications to develop the project submitted. For each Planning Cycle the Cost Allocation Task Force is to apply the criteria identified in Table B in a comparable and non-discriminatory manner. The sufficiency of the qualification data will be determined by the Cost Allocation Task Force. The Cost Allocation Task Force co-chairs are to provide the Project Sponsor with written notice of the Cost Allocation Task Force's determinations. The notice will provide either that the entity satisfies the qualification data requirements or will identify specific deficiencies. An entity that has satisfied the qualification data requirements is referred to as a "Qualified Developer."

2.5.1.4 Opportunity to Cure Deficiencies and Failure to Cure

If the Cost Allocation Task Force identifies deficiencies in the qualification data submitted by an entity, such entity has fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of notice of deficiencies to cure the identified deficiencies. If deficiencies are not timely cured, the Cost Allocation Task Force chair is to provide the entity with written notice that it is not qualified to develop the project for which it intended

to request cost allocation pursuant to Sections 2.3.2.3.2 or 2.3.2.3.3 in the Planning Cycle. An entity that fails to become a Qualified Sponsor may seek to qualify during the Submittal Window in the next Planning Cycle.

2.6 Cost Allocation

2.6.1 Projects Eligible for Cost Allocation Consideration

The Cost Allocation Task Force is to identify whether a cost allocation analysis is required for any Potential Cost Allocation Project that was identified within a Regional Combination in Section 2.4.3 and included in the Draft Regional Transmission Plan. This is to be accomplished by the Cost Allocation Task Force confirming that each such Potential Cost Allocation Project has Estimated Costs exceeding \$20 million. Such a Potential Cost Allocation Project is then referred to as a “Project for Cost Allocation Consideration.” Any Potential Cost Allocation Project with Estimated Costs that do not exceed \$20 million will no longer be considered for cost allocation in the Planning Cycle.

2.6.2 Total Project Cost and Annualized Cost of Projects for Cost Allocation Consideration

The Cost Allocation Task Force is to determine the Total Project Cost of each Project for Cost Allocation Consideration. The Cost Allocation Task Force is also to determine the Annualized Cost of each Project for Cost Allocation Consideration as set forth in this Section 2.6.2.

2.6.2.1 Annualized Cost of a Project That Is Not an ITP

The Annualized Cost is a levelized annual cost over the life of the Project for Cost Allocation Consideration. When determining the Annualized Cost of a project that is not an ITP, the Cost Allocation Task Force shall include the following, as applicable:

- a. Estimated annualized revenue requirement of the Estimated Cost submitted pursuant to row K of Table A found in Section 2.3.2.3.5, as such may be updated pursuant to either Section 2.3.2.3.8 or Section 2.4.4;
- b. Estimated annualized revenue requirement of the Mitigation Cost identified in Section 2.4.3, to mitigate the Material Adverse Impact on the Neighboring Systems associated with a Project for Cost Allocation Consideration.

The annualized revenue requirement of the Estimated Cost and the annualized revenue requirement of the Mitigation Costs will include assumptions for annual return (both debt and equity), depreciation, taxes other than income, operation and maintenance expense, and income taxes. The Cost Allocation Task Force may make adjustments to the annual revenue requirements and underlying assumptions submitted pursuant to row K of Table A in Section 2.3.2.3.5 as it in its professional judgment determines to be necessary. If no revenue requirements or assumptions are submitted, the Cost Allocation Task Force is to determine, in its professional judgment, the annual revenue

requirements and underlying assumptions. Such adjustments or determinations are to be explained in the Draft Regional Transmission Plan.

When determining the Annualized Cost of each Project for Cost Allocation Consideration, the Cost Allocation Task Force may make adjustments to the Estimated Cost and Mitigation Cost submitted, using the WECC Transmission Capital Costs Calculator (or some other recognized tool), as the Cost Allocation Task Force in its professional judgment determines to be necessary. Such adjustments are to be explained in the Draft Regional Transmission Plan.

2.6.2.2 Annualized Cost of an ITP

With respect to the Annualized Cost of an ITP, the Cost Allocation Task Force shall annualize, in the manner described in Section 2.6.2.1, the Assigned Regional Costs from Interregional Cost Allocation, as determined in accordance with Section 4.7.6.

2.6.3 Identify More Efficient or Cost-Effective Solutions; Documentation in Draft Regional Transmission Plan

The Cost Allocation Task Force is to evaluate the Projects for Cost Allocation Consideration to determine whether any such projects are a more efficient or cost-effective solution to an Enrolled Party Need.

In determining whether a Project for Cost Allocation Consideration is the more efficient or cost-effective solution to an Enrolled Party Need, the Cost Allocation Task Force is to consider the following factors:

- a. Sponsorship and degree of development;
- b. Feasibility;
- c. Coordination with any affected transmission system;
- d. Economics;
- e. Effectiveness of performance;
- f. Satisfaction of an Enrolled Party's Need, including the extent to which the proposed solution satisfies multiple Enrolled Parties' Needs;
- g. Mitigation of any Material Adverse Impact of such proposed solution on any transmission system; and
- h. Consistency with applicable state, regional, and federal planning requirements and regulations.

No single factor is necessarily to be determinative in evaluating proposed solutions to address Enrolled Party(ies) Needs.

Any Project for Cost Allocation Consideration that is determined to be more efficient or cost-effective will then be incorporated within the Draft Regional Transmission Plan as an “Eligible Cost Allocation Project.” The Cost Allocation Task Force is to document its analysis and results in the Draft Regional Transmission Plan, including analysis and results regarding any Project for Cost Allocation Consideration that is determined to not be the more efficient or cost-effective and thus not eligible for cost allocation.

2.6.4 Benefits of An Eligible Cost Allocation Project

The Benefits of any Eligible Cost Allocation Project are Deferred Costs, Avoided Capital Costs, and Increased Useful Available Transfer Capability directly attributable to such Eligible Cost Allocation Project. Each Benefit is described and will be evaluated as set forth below. Each Benefit is converted to a levelized annual amount and assumed to continue over the life of the Eligible Cost Allocation Project.

2.6.4.1 Deferred Costs

Deferred Costs of an Enrolled Party are a Benefit of such Enrolled Party. The Deferred Costs of an Enrolled Party for an Eligible Cost Allocation Project are the projected avoided costs of such Enrolled Party’s deferred transmission facilities over the deferred period that are directly attributable to such Eligible Cost Allocation Project. Deferred Costs are to be calculated for each Enrolled Party based on the revenue requirement avoided over each year of the deferral period (i.e. annual return (both debt and equity), depreciation, taxes other than income, operation and maintenance expense, and income taxes), and then annualized over the life of the Eligible Cost Allocation Project.

2.6.4.2 Avoided Capital Costs

Avoided Capital Costs of an Enrolled Party are a Benefit of such Enrolled Party. The Avoided Capital Costs of an Enrolled Party for an Eligible Cost Allocation Project are the avoided costs of eliminated transmission facilities for such Enrolled Party that are directly attributable to such Eligible Cost Allocation Project. Avoided Capital Costs are to be calculated for each Enrolled Party based on the revenue requirement avoided over each year of the life of the Eligible Cost Allocation Project (i.e. annual return (both debt and equity), depreciation, taxes other than income, operation and maintenance expense, and income taxes), and then annualized over the life of the Eligible Cost Allocation Project.

2.6.4.3 Increased Useful Available Transfer Capability (“ATC”)

Increased Useful ATC of an Enrolled Party is a Benefit to such Enrolled Party. The Increased Useful ATC of an Enrolled Party for an Eligible Cost Allocation Project is the increased annual revenue from sales at cost-based rates projected to be accrued by such Enrolled Party over the life of the Eligible Cost Allocation Project due to an increase in transmission capacity on such Enrolled Party’s Transmission System, where such increase in transmission capacity is a direct result of such Eligible Cost Allocation Project. The increased annual revenue from sales includes both sales enabled on existing transmission facilities as a

result of the Eligible Cost Allocation Project and sales revenue for sales on the Eligible Cost Allocation Project. The Qualified Sponsor(s)/Qualified Developer(s) of such Eligible Cost Allocation Project and other Enrolled Parties projected to receive increased sales revenue as a result of the Eligible Cost Allocation Project each may receive a Benefit.

2.6.5 Allocation of Total Project Cost to Enrolled Party Beneficiaries

The Cost Allocation Task Force is to identify the Enrolled Party Beneficiaries of each Eligible Cost Allocation Project, evaluate the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio of each Eligible Cost Allocation Project, and, if Benefit-to-Cost Ratio is satisfied, allocate Total Project Cost of each Eligible Cost Allocation Project to the Enrolled Party Beneficiaries of each Eligible Cost Allocation Project.

2.6.5.1 Identification of Enrolled Party Beneficiaries

For each Eligible Cost Allocation Project, the Cost Allocation Task Force is to identify the Enrolled Parties that have a Benefit pursuant to Sections 2.6.4.1, 2.6.4.2, and/or 2.6.4.3 directly attributable to such Eligible Cost Allocation Project (each Enrolled Party that has a Benefit is referred to as an “Enrolled Party Beneficiary”).

2.6.5.2 Evaluation of Benefit-to-Cost Ratio; Documentation in Draft Regional Transmission Plan

The Cost Allocation Task Force is to calculate the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio of each Eligible Cost Allocation Project by summing the Benefits (annualized) identified in Sections 2.6.4.1, 2.6.4.2, and 2.6.4.3 for all Enrolled Party Beneficiaries as determined in Section 2.6.5.1 and dividing that sum by the Annualized Cost of such Eligible Cost Allocation Project as determined in Section 2.6.2.1 or 2.6.2.2, as applicable. If the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio calculated for the Eligible Cost Allocation Project is greater than or equal to 1.25, such project is a “Preliminary Cost Allocation Project.” In the event the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio for the Eligible for Cost Allocation Project is less than 1.25, such project is no longer eligible for cost allocation. The Cost Allocation Task Force is to incorporate the results into the Draft Regional Transmission Plan and document the reasons for the decisions made.

Example 1: Application of Benefit-to-Cost Ratio (for illustrative purposes only)

Annualized Cost of Eligible Cost Allocation Project = \$100M

Beneficiary A's Annualized Benefits = \$60M

Beneficiary B's Annualized Benefits = \$50M

Beneficiary C's Annualized Benefits = \$90M (Beneficiary C is the Sponsor)

Total benefits = \$200M

In this example, the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio exceeds 1.25 and, therefore, the Eligible Cost Allocation Project becomes classified as a “Preliminary Cost Allocation Project.”

2.6.5.3 Allocation of Total Project Cost to Enrolled Party Beneficiaries

The Cost Allocation Task Force is to calculate the allocation of the Total Project Cost of each Preliminary Cost Allocation Project to each Enrolled Party Beneficiary of such Preliminary Cost Allocation Project. Total Project Cost of each Preliminary Cost Allocation Project (less any amount voluntarily accepted by a Person pursuant to Section 2.6.5.4) shall be allocated to each Enrolled Party Beneficiary of such Preliminary Cost Allocation Project based upon the Benefits (in dollars) applicable to each such Enrolled Party Beneficiary divided by the total Benefits (in dollars) applicable to all Enrolled Party Beneficiaries of such Preliminary Cost Allocation Project with that result multiplied by the Total Project Cost of the Preliminary Cost Allocation Project as expressed in the Formula 1 (the “Cost Allocation Methodology”). The Cost Allocation Task Force shall as soon as practical provide each Enrolled Party Beneficiary with the results from its application of the Cost Allocation Methodology for any Preliminary Cost Allocation Project.

Formula 1: Allocation of Total Project Cost to Enrolled Party Beneficiaries

$$D = (B / C) A$$

Where, for a Preliminary Cost Allocation Project:

“A” equals the Total Project Cost of the Preliminary Cost Allocation Project as determined in Section 2.6.2.1 (less any amount accepted by a Person pursuant to Section 2.6.5.4).

“B” equals the dollar amount of Benefits identified in Sections 2.6.4.1, 2.6.4.2, and 2.6.4.3 for a specific Enrolled Party Beneficiary.

“C” equals the dollar amount of the sum of Benefits calculated in Sections 2.6.4.1, 2.6.4.2, and 2.6.4.3 for all Enrolled Party Beneficiaries.

“D” equals the dollar amount of the Total Project Cost of the Preliminary Cost Allocation Project to be allocated to the specific Enrolled Party Beneficiary for which “B” applies.

This formula is to be applied to each Enrolled Party Beneficiary of the Preliminary Cost Allocation Project.

Example 2: Allocation of Total Project Cost to Enrolled Party Beneficiaries (for illustrative purposes only)

Example 2 builds upon the facts described in Example 1 above, and allocates the Preliminary Cost Allocation Project's \$100M costs to each Enrolled Party Beneficiary as follows:

Enrolled Party Beneficiary A: (\$60M/\$200M) \$100M	=	\$30M
Enrolled Party Beneficiary B: (\$50M/\$200M) \$100M	=	\$25M
Enrolled Party Beneficiary C: (\$90M/\$200M) \$100M	=	<u>\$45M</u>
Total	=	\$100M

2.6.5.4 Acceptance of Total Project Cost; Removal from Cost Allocation

Upon receipt of the results of the Cost Allocation Task Force's application of the Cost Allocation Methodology to a Sponsored Preliminary Cost Allocation Project pursuant to Section 2.6.5.3 and prior to the Cost Allocation Task Force transmitting its results to the Planning Committee for inclusion in the Draft Regional Transmission Plan, the Enrolled Parties shall have thirty (30) calendar days to arrange participant funding for the Preliminary Cost Allocation Project (the "Negotiation Period"). On or before the conclusion of the Negotiation Period, the Project Sponsor shall notify the Cost Allocation Task Force of its election to proceed based upon one of the following three options:

- a. Continue with Cost Allocation – whereby the Cost Allocation Task Force is to proceed with notifying the Planning Committee of the results of its cost allocation.
- b. Hybrid Allocation—whereby the Project Sponsor includes with its notice of election a writing signed by one or more Persons (excluding Beneficiaries) agreeing to accept a specific allocation of the Total Project Cost of a Preliminary Cost Allocation Project ("Voluntary Allocation").
- c. Withdrawal —whereby the Project Sponsor voluntarily withdraws its request for cost allocation of the Preliminary Cost Allocation Project in the Planning Cycle.

In the event the "Continue with Cost Allocation" option is selected, the Cost Allocation Task Force shall provide the Planning Committee with the results of its cost allocation.

In the event the "Hybrid Allocation" option is selected, the Cost Allocation Task Force shall subtract the amount of Voluntary Allocation from the Total Project Cost of the Preliminary Cost Allocation Project. The Cost Allocation Task Force shall then allocate the remainder of the Total Project Cost of the Preliminary Cost Allocation Project to the Beneficiaries in accordance with the methodology

set forth in Section 2.6.5.3 and provide the Planning Committee with the results of its cost allocation that takes into account the Voluntary Allocation.

In the event the “Withdrawal” option is selected, the Cost Allocation Task Force shall notify the Planning Committee that the Project Sponsor has withdrawn its request for cost allocation.

2.6.5.5 Results from Cost Allocation Methodology; Documentation in Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan

Unless a Preliminary Cost Allocation Project is removed from cost allocation consideration, the Cost Allocation Task Force is to select only Qualified Developer submitted Preliminary Cost Allocation Projects submitted for purposes of cost allocation (“Cost Allocation Project”) and incorporate the results from its application of the Cost Allocation Methodology for such Cost Allocation Project in the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan. The Cost Allocation Task Force is to post such results on the NorthernGrid Website and post notice of, and hold, a public meeting in accordance with the Cost Allocation Task Force Charter to review the results. The Cost Allocation Task Force will then incorporate and document any comments received and the analysis, rationale, and results associated with the Qualified Developer’s submitted Preliminary Cost Allocation Projects and the conclusion of any negotiation efforts, into the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan and document the reasons for the decisions made.

2.6.5.6 Multiple Scenarios

If multiple scenarios are evaluated each scenario must have a Benefit-to-Cost Ratio calculated for the Eligible Cost Allocation Project is greater than or equal to 1.25, such project is a “Preliminary Cost Allocation Project”. In the event the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio for any scenario for the Eligible Cost Allocation Project is less than 1.25, such project is no longer eligible for cost allocation. The Benefit-to-Cost Ratio will be calculated for sensitivity(ies) for informational purposes.

2.6.5.7 Cost Allocation Reevaluation

Each project that is approved for cost allocation shall be reevaluated in each subsequent Planning Cycle until the Transmission Facility (or Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility) becomes a Committed Project. In the event the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio for any scenario for the project is no longer greater than or equal to 1.25, such project is no longer eligible for cost allocation.

2.6.6 Exclusions

Projects undertaken in connection with requests for interconnection or transmission service under this Tariff will be governed solely by the provisions of the Tariff applicable to such requests for interconnection or transmission service.

2.7 Regional Transmission Plan

2.7.1 Preparation and Posting of Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to post a Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan by the end of the last September in the Planning Cycle. The Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan is to include:

- i. A list of each Cost Allocation Project along with the results of the application of the Cost Allocation Methodology for such Cost Allocation Project including identification of each Enrolled Party Beneficiary, the share of the Total Project Cost allocated to each such Enrolled Party Beneficiary, and the Benefits identified for each such Enrolled Party Beneficiary;
- ii. Whether, and, if so, the extent to which costs of any Cost Allocation Project were voluntarily assumed by any other Person;
- iii. A list of any ITP(s) for which joint evaluation has been requested; and
- iv. A list of any projects listed as Cost Allocation Projects in the prior Regional Transmission Plan that, in accordance with Section 2.3.2.3.8, will not be included in the current Regional Transmission Plan as a Cost Allocation Project.

2.7.2 Review and Comment; Consideration of Comments; Update Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan; Regional Transmission Plan

Upon development of the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to post the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan on the NorthernGrid Website. Thereafter, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to schedule a public meeting to present the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan and solicit comments from stakeholders and the Enrolled Parties and States Committee. NorthernGrid is to post the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan and notice of the public meeting on the NorthernGrid Website at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of such meeting.

Stakeholders and the Enrolled Parties and States Committee have fifteen (15) calendar days following the meeting to submit written comments on the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan. NorthernGrid is to:

- a. Post any written comments received;
- b. Post any responses to written comments within fifteen (15) calendar days after the comment period closes; provided that the chair of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may extend the time for posting such responses to the extent necessary to allow time to adequately consider and respond;
- c. Make modifications in response to comments received, as the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee deems appropriate, to the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan; and

- d. Cause the Final Regional Transmission Plan developed through the processes outlined in this Attachment K to be issued.

SECTION 3 Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Process

3.1 Introduction

NorthernGrid is to develop a Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan each Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle as described in this Attachment K. The first Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle shall begin upon the start of the Regional Transmission Planning Cycle occurring upon the issuance of a final Commission Order accepting in full or without exception Transmission Provider's Order 1920 compliance filing. Each Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle considers a twenty-year planning horizon ("Long-Term Regional Planning Horizon") to commence on the first day of that Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle (the "Commencement Date"). The Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan is not intended to be a construction plan; however, the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan is intended to identify Long-Term Transmission Needs, identify transmission facilities that meet such needs, measure the benefits of those transmission facilities, and evaluate those transmission facilities for potential selection in the regional transmission plan for purposes of cost allocation as the more efficient or cost-effective regional transmission facilities to meet Long-Term Transmission Needs.

Within three (3) years of the Commencement Date of each Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall (i) complete the development of the Long-Term Scenarios, (ii) perform at least one sensitivity analysis for each Long-Term Scenario, (iii) identify Long-Term Transmission Needs, if any, and (iv) measure the benefits of Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities.

3.2 Participation and Information Access for the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan

Any Person that is eligible to participate and access information under Section 2 of the Regional Transmission Planning process will also be eligible to participate in the Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning process.

3.3 Scenario Development, Data Gathering, and Study Scope Inputs for the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan

3.3.1 Responsibility

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to gather data to prepare the Long-Term Scenarios and Study Scope to perform certain evaluations as set forth in this Attachment K.

3.3.2 Data Gathering for the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan

3.3.2.1 General from Stakeholders

Any stakeholder may submit data, including data to reflect factors incorporated into Long-Term Scenarios used to identify Long-Term Transmission Needs. Any

stakeholder may also submit projects for evaluation as part of the preparation of the Draft Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan to address Enrolled Party Long-Term Transmission Needs. A stakeholder shall use the Data Submittal Form to submit data and may use Table A, in Section 2.3.2.3.5, as guidance for the types of data to be submitted. Stakeholders shall submit such data to NorthernGrid consistent with the instructions available on the NorthernGrid Website, within the Submittal Window. Stakeholders may also submit such data to NorthernGrid consistent with the instructions available on the NorthernGrid Website within the sixty (60) day time period for submitting additional information under Section 2.4.2. Untimely submissions will not be considered.

3.3.2.2 Enrolled Party Information for the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan

Each Enrolled Party is to submit the types of data specified in section 2.3.2.2 (Enrolled Party Information for the Regional Transmission Plan) applicable to the Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Horizon to NorthernGrid, as well as its In-Kind Replacement Estimate, within the Submittal Window.

3.3.2.3 Proposing a Project

3.3.2.3.1 New Sponsored Projects

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.2.3.1. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.2.3.1 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.2.3.2 Request for Cost Allocation - Sponsored Project

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.2.3.2 for qualifying to request cost allocation. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.2.3.2 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.2.3.3 Request for Cost Allocation - Un-sponsored Project

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.2.3.3 for qualifying to request cost allocation. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.2.3.3 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.2.3.4 Merchant Transmission Projects

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.2.3.4. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.2.3.4 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.2.3.5 Minimum Data Submittal Requirements

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.2.3.5. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.2.3.5 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.2.3.6 Additional Information about Potential Cost Allocation Projects

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.2.3.6. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.2.3.6 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.2.3.7 Submitting and Updating Sponsored Projects (not including Cost Allocation Projects) included in the prior Regional Transmission Plan

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.2.3.7. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.2.3.7 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.2.3.8 Updating Previous Cost Allocation Projects included in the prior Regional Transmission Plan

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.2.3.8. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.2.3.8 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.2.4 Submittal Form and Due Date

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.2.4. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.2.4 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.2.5 Use of Submitted Information

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.2.5. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.2.5 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.3 Review of Submitted Information

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.3. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to

Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.3 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.4 Untimely or Improperly Submitted Requests or Submittals of Information

The Enrolled Parties/Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.3.4. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.3.4 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.3.5 Long-Term Scenario Development

In accordance with this section, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall develop Long-Term Scenarios to be included in the NorthernGrid Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall use the Long-Term Scenarios to identify Long-Term Transmission Needs and enable the identification, evaluation, and potential selection of Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities that would meet the Long-Term Transmission Needs. In developing the Long-Term Scenarios, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall adhere to the following six transmission planning principles: coordination, openness, transparency, information exchange, comparability, and dispute resolution.

3.3.5.1 Best Available Data Inputs for Long-Term Scenarios

In development of the Long-Term Scenarios, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall use best practices to determine the Best Available Data Inputs necessary to develop the Long-Term Scenarios. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will use Best Available Data Inputs to determine whether each factor in a Factor Category as set forth in Section 3.3.5.2 is likely to affect Long-Term Transmission Needs. If the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee determines that a factor is likely to impact Long-Term Transmission Needs, it shall use best available data when it accounts for that factor in the development of Long-Term Scenarios. Through the process set forth in Section 3.3.5.4, stakeholders shall have an opportunity to provide timely and meaningful input on the Best Available Data Inputs used in the development of the Long-Term Scenarios.

3.3.5.2 Factor Categories to be Used in Long-Term Scenarios

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall identify and decide how to account for factors that it determines are likely to affect Long-Term Transmission Needs in the development of the Long-Term Scenarios. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall, at minimum, use the following categories of factors, individually or collectively, in the development of the Long-Term Scenarios:

Factor Category 1:	Federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including any Federally-Recognized Tribal Laws and Regulations, affecting the resource mix and demand.
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Factor Category 1 includes, among other things, legally binding obligations, incentives (e.g., tax credits), and/or restrictions promulgated by policy makers that will affect new or existing generators, or demand.

Factor Category 2: Federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including any Federally-Recognized Tribal Laws and Regulations, on decarbonization and electrification.

Factor Category 2 includes legally binding obligations, incentives, and/or restrictions that affect Long-Term Transmission Needs in different ways than Factor Category 1.

Factor Category 3: State-Approved Integrated Resource Plans and expected supply obligations for load-serving entities.

Factor Category 4: Trends in fuel costs and in the cost, performance, and availability of generation, electric storage resources, and building and transportation electrification technologies.

Factor Category 4 may include, but are not limited to, cost and technology trends for:

- (i) utility-scale generation construction costs for different generating technologies;
- (ii) distributed energy resources;
- (iii) storage technologies with differing duration limitations;
- (iv) carbon capture and sequestration;
- (v) small modular nuclear;
- (vi) light-, medium-, and heavy-duty electric vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment; and
- (vii) ground- and air-source heat pumps.

Factor Category 5: Resource retirements.

Factor Category 5 includes publicly announced resource retirements and resource retirements that have not been publicly announced but might take place over the transmission planning horizon. These expected retirements may be accounted for by considering publicly available information such as generating facility ages, emissions profiles, projected costs and revenues, and any applicable laws and regulations that may affect a generating facility's

continued operation over the transmission planning horizon.

Factor Category 6: Generator interconnection requests and withdrawals.

Factor Category 7: Utility commitments and federal, Federally-Recognized Tribal Laws and Regulations, state, and local policy goals that affect Long-Term Transmission Needs. For purposes of this Factor Category 7, utility commitments and federally recognized Tribal goals are publicly announced utility commitments and publicly announced federally recognized Tribal policy recommendations, such as energy vision reports.

In development of the Long-Term Scenarios, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will provide stakeholders with an opportunity, through an open and transparent process set forth in 3.3.5.4, to provide comment on the factors and impact on Long-Term Transmission Needs. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may exercise its discretion to not account for a factor if that factor is unlikely to affect Long-Term Transmission Needs. Where factors have overlapping effects, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall avoid double counting the effect those factors have on planning assumptions. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may exceed the minimum requirements of factors in the development of Long-Term Scenarios provided that each Long-Term Scenario remains plausible. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall have the discretion regarding how to account for specific factors in the development of Long-Term Scenarios (e.g., the method and data used to forecast resource retirements, or, potentially, energy equity and justice laws and regulations) and how to vary the treatment of each Factor Category across Long-Term Scenarios (e.g., assume all forecasted resource retirements materialize in some but not all Long-Term Scenarios) to the extent any of the above factors directly impacts Transmission Provider's system.

In developing Long-Term Scenarios, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall assume that legally binding obligations (i.e., federal, Federally-Recognized Tribal Laws and Regulations, state, and local laws and regulations) are followed, State-Approved Integrated Resource Plans are followed, and expected supply obligations for load-serving entities are fully met. That is, once the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee has determined a factor in the first three Factor Categories affects Long-Term Transmission Needs, it shall account for and be consistent with, and not discount such a factor in Factor Categories 1-3. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may rely on the open and transparent stakeholder process in accordance with Section 3.3.5.4 to identify the factors in Factor Categories 1-3 and may, but is not required to, independently identify all of the factors in Factor Categories 1-3.

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall consider, but have additional discretion, on how to account for the effects of Factor Categories 4-7. Due to

the uncertainty in Factor Categories 4 through 7, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may choose to discount, or put less weight in, the effects a factor in these categories has on Long-Term Transmission Needs when developing Long-Term Scenarios. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may use either or both facility-by-facility and portfolio approaches to measure Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities within the same Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning cycle.

3.3.5.3 Development of Long-Term Scenarios

For each Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall:

- (i) develop at least three (3) distinct Plausible and Diverse Long-Term Scenarios that:
 - a. incorporates various assumptions, using Best Available Data Inputs, about the future electric power system over a transmission planning horizon of no less than 20 years following the start of a Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle;
 - b. considers the seven Factor Categories listed in Section 3.3.3.2; and
 - c. may include a base case Long-Term Scenario as one of the Long-Term Scenarios required by this section if the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee determines it is the most likely scenario to occur.
- (ii) perform at least one sensitivity analysis that will be applied to each Long-Term Scenario to account for uncertain operational outcomes that determine the benefits of and or need for transmission facilities during multiple concurrent and sustained generation and/or transmission outages due to an extreme weather event across a wide area. Additional sensitivity analyses may be considered for other high-impact, infrequent event conditions.
- (iii) conclude the Long-Term Regional Planning Cycle before developing the Long-Term Scenarios for the next Long-Term Regional Planning Cycle.

3.3.5.4 Stakeholder Process for Long-Term Scenarios

Upon the development of Long-Term Scenarios pursuant to Section 3.3.3, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee, consistent with the transparency transmission planning principle, will follow the Long-Term Scenario stakeholder process outlined below (subject to applicable confidentiality procedures of NorthernGrid and/or the Enrolled Party(ies) with the sensitive information).

Post the proposed Long-Term Scenarios including Factor Categories and Best Available Data Inputs underlying each proposed Long-Term Scenario, including the methodology, criteria, assumptions, and data regarding factors and Factor Categories to the NorthernGrid website. Notify Relevant State

Entities of the proposed Long-Term Scenarios and solicit their consultation on incorporating applicable laws, policies, and regulations into the Factor Categories.

- i. Post notice of a public meeting at least seven (7) calendar days prior to such a meeting.
- ii. Host the public meeting to discuss the proposed Long-Term Scenarios and open a stakeholder comment window for fifteen (15) calendar days following the public meeting. Stakeholders have the opportunity to propose potential factors, provide information and identify sources of best available data, propose how a factor may affect Long-Term Transmission Needs, and explain how that factor could be reflected in the development of Long-Term Scenarios, including the extent to which it is appropriate to discount the effects of certain factors on Long-Term Transmission Needs.
- iii. Post written comments received and responses to written comments within fifteen (15) calendar days after the comment period closes to the NorthernGrid website.
- iv. Develop and post the draft Long-Term Scenarios to the NorthernGrid website. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will publish:
 - a. The list of the factors in each of the seven required Factor Categories that the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will account for in the Long-Term Scenarios;
 - b. A description of each factor that the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will account for in their Long-Term Scenarios;
 - c. A general statement explaining how the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will account for each of those factors in their Long-Term Scenarios;
 - d. A description of the extent to which the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will discount any factors in Factor Categories Four through Seven in each Long-Term Scenario; and
 - e. A list of the factors that the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee considered but did not incorporate in the Long-Term Scenarios.
- v. Post notice of a public meeting at least seven (7) calendar days prior to such a meeting.
- vi. Host the meeting to discuss the draft Long-Term Scenarios and open a stakeholder comment window for fifteen (15) calendar days following the public meeting.
- vii. Post any written comments received and post any responses to written comments within fifteen (15) calendar days after the comment period closes on the NorthernGrid website.
- viii. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may modify the draft Long-Term Scenarios, as it deems appropriate, and shall post the final Long-Term Scenarios to the NorthernGrid website.

The chair of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may allow additional time as necessary to adequately consider and respond to written comments or to evaluate additional Long-Term Scenarios.

3.3.5.5 Reassessment and Revision of Long-Term Scenarios

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee, at the onset of a Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle, shall determine whether to reassess and revise previously used Long-Term Scenarios, and it shall reassess whether the Best Available Data Inputs and factors incorporated in previous Long-Term Scenarios need to be updated, as necessary. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall solicit stakeholder input of the reassessed and revised Long-Term Scenarios in accordance with Section 3.3.5.4.

3.3.5.6 Additional Scenarios Requested by Relevant State Entities

If Relevant State Entities request additional scenarios to inform their consideration of cost allocation methods, Enrolled Parties shall develop those additional scenarios.

3.4 Development of Draft Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan

3.4.1 Study Scope Development

The draft Study Scope for the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan shall be developed consistent with Section 2.4.1 with the following modification/changes:

- Qualifying Interconnection Facilities are not a component of the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan Study Scope.
- Right-sizing is a part of the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan Study Scope, which is described in Section 3.4.4.

3.4.2 Review and Comment; Consideration of Comments; Update Study Scope

Upon completion of the development of the draft Study Scope for the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.4.2 for reviewing the plan and soliciting comments. For purposes of this Section, any reference to Draft Regional Transmission Plan in Section 2.4.2 shall be considered as Draft Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan.

3.4.3 Required Benefits for Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities to Be Measured Under Each Long-Term Scenario

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall use and measure the following benefits ("Required Benefits") for each Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility under each Long-Term Scenario as part of Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning. A Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility's benefits shall be measured for 20 years from the facility's estimated in-service date. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall

evaluate facilities for potential selection into the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan using the Required Benefits:

Required Benefit 1: Avoided or deferred reliability transmission facilities and aging transmission infrastructure replacement

Required Benefit 1 is described as the reduced costs due to avoided or delayed transmission investment otherwise required to address reliability needs or replace aging transmission facilities.

Required Benefit 1 will measure the investment cost of the avoided or deferred reliability transmission facilities and aging transmission infrastructure replacement compared to the investment cost of the Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility(ies) that could be implemented to avoid or defer these investments.

Required Benefit 2: This Required Benefit is characterized and measured as either:

(i) Required Benefit 2(a) Reduced Loss of Load Probability

Required Benefit 2(a) is described as reduced loss of load probability for resource adequacy planning, which typically includes the consideration of normal system conditions.

Required Benefit 2(a) will measure the reduction in capital costs or avoided costs needed to meet a loss of load probability target with and without a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility(ies).

(ii) Required Benefit 2(b) Reduced Planning Reserve Margin

Required Benefit 2(b) is described as the reduction in capital costs of generation needed to meet resource adequacy requirements (i.e., planning reserve margins) while holding loss of load probability constant.

Benefit 2(b) will measure the reduction in capital costs or avoided costs needed to meet the planning reserve margin, with and without a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility(ies).

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will determine which of Benefit 2(a) and Benefit 2(b) will be measured at the start of each Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle.

Required Benefit 3: Production cost savings

Required Benefit 3 is described as savings in fuel and other variable operating costs of power generation that are realized when transmission facilities allow for displacement of higher-cost supplies through the increased dispatch of suppliers that have lower incremental costs of production, as well as a reduction in market prices as lower-cost suppliers set market clearing prices.

Required Benefit 3 will be measured using production cost modeling simulations to compare production costs with and without a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility(ies).

Required Benefit 4: Reduced transmission energy losses

Required Benefit 4 is described as the reduced total energy necessary to meet demand stemming from reduced energy losses incurred in transmittal of power from generation to loads.

Required Benefit 4 will measure energy losses and the amount of total energy with and without a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility(ies).

Required Benefit 5: Reduced congestion due to transmission outages

Required Benefit 5 is described as reduced production costs resulting from avoided congestion during transmission outages. Such benefits include reduced production costs during transmission outages that significantly increase transmission congestion.

Required Benefit 5 will be measured using production cost modeling simulations to compare congestion costs during outage conditions, with and without a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility(ies).

Required Benefit 6: Mitigation of extreme weather events and unexpected system conditions

Required Benefit 6 is described as reduced production costs and reduced loss of load (or emergency procurements necessary to support the system), including due to increased Interregional Transfer Capability, during extreme weather events and unexpected system conditions, such as unusual weather conditions or fuel shortages that result in multiple concurrent and sustained generation and/or transmission outages.

Required Benefit 6 will measure production costs, loss of load, and Interregional Transfer Capability during extreme weather events and unexpected system conditions resulting in outages with and without a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility(ies).

Required Benefit 7: Capacity cost benefits from reduced peak energy losses

Required Benefit 7 is described as reduced generation capacity investment needed to meet peak load.

Required Benefits 7 will measure the reduced resource capital costs resulting from the reduction in peak hour energy loss with and without a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility(ies).

3.4.4 Analysis; Evaluation and Selection of Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall conduct the evaluation process and apply the selection criteria described below to ensure the opportunity exists to select in the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan any Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities that more efficiently or cost-effectively meet Long-Term Transmission Needs. This process shall culminate in a determination that is sufficiently detailed for stakeholders to understand why a particular Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility was either selected or not selected in the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan.

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to evaluate combinations of the Baseline Projects of Enrolled Parties and Alternative Projects to identify whether there may be a combination that effectively satisfies all Long-Term Transmission Needs (“Regional Combination”). If a project does not meet any Long-Term Transmission Need, it will not be considered by the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee for inclusion in the Draft Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan.

Once the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee becomes aware of a Material Adverse Impact on a Neighboring System caused by a Sponsored Project or Alternative Project identified in the Regional Combination, the Project Sponsor is to coordinate with the Neighboring System(s) to assess the facilities necessary to mitigate the Material Adverse Impact on the Neighboring System(s). If the Material Adverse Impact cannot be mitigated (by actions within the Enrolled Region or the Neighboring Systems), or the Project Sponsor does not identify solutions to mitigate the Material Adverse Impact on the Neighboring System(s), the Sponsored Project or Alternative Project identified in the Regional Combination will not be selected into the Draft Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan. The Project Sponsor will provide the Mitigation Cost for each Material Adverse Impact to the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will review and adjust the Mitigation Cost for each project and then associate the Mitigation Cost of each Material Adverse Impact to each project causing the Material Adverse Impact. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to document its analysis and results in the Draft Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan.

The evaluation process shall consider the following factors to ensure that the process is transparent and not unduly discriminatory or preferential:

- Solutions to meet the Long-Term Transmission Needs of the system, including consideration of the following alternative Grid Enhancing Technologies as defined in section 2.4.3. As part of the NorthernGrid selection process, it will provide explanation in sufficient detail for stakeholders to understand why an enhanced technology was or was not selected into the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan.
- Measured Required Benefits, in accordance with the seven benefits in the preceding section, to prioritize cost-effective facilities and seek to maximize benefits accounting for costs over time without overbuilding the transmission system.

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall evaluate and select Right-Sized Replacement Transmission Facilities as potential solutions to Long-Term Transmission Needs in the same manner as other potential Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will evaluate for right-sizing to more efficiently or cost-effectively meet a Long-Term Transmission Need operating above a 200 kV threshold and where the Enrolled Party that owns the facility anticipates replacing in-kind with a new facility during the next 10 years. Upon the selection of a Right-Sized Replacement Transmission Facility, the Enrolled Party that submitted the corresponding In-Kind Replacement Transmission Facility is vested with a right of first refusal to develop the Right-Sized Replacement Transmission Facility that would replace the existing transmission facility. This right of first refusal extends to any portion of the Right-Sized Replacement Transmission Facility located within that Enrolled Party's retail distribution service territory or footprint.

- Specifically, this evaluation process and selection criteria will result in the identification of the most efficient and cost-effective proposals, and estimate the costs and measure the benefits of Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities, according to the following processes and criteria: a "least-regrets" approach, wherein the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee would select a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility that has a Benefit-to-Cost Ratio of no less than 1.25 in all Long-Term Scenarios, as set forth in Section 2.6.5.2 even if other transmission facilities have more net benefits or a higher Benefit-to-Cost ratio in a single Long-Term Scenario. A Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility will not be required to meet or exceed the Benefit-to-Cost ratio regarding the sensitivity(ies), but the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio will be calculated for informational purposes.
- Consideration of the efficiency and cost effectiveness of Grid Enhancing Technologies.
- Any additional qualitative or other quantitative selection criteria that NorthernGrid planning region proposes to apply, including those that derive from the stakeholder processes described in Section 3.3.5.4.

For each proposed Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility or Regional Combination, each of the preceding seven Required Benefits will be calculated as an annualized cost or savings, which will be summed to determine the overall cost or savings of the Facility. The overall benefit cost or savings of the facility will be compared to the capital cost of the Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility or Regional Combination, expressed as a Benefit-to-Cost Ratio. This process will be repeated for each Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility for each scenario and sensitivity studied. For a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility to be selected into the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan, the Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility must have an overall Benefit-to-Cost Ratio of no less than 1.25 for each scenario.

A determination of whether to select or not select identified Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities or Regional Combinations in the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan shall be made by the end of first quarter of the third year of the Planning Cycle. Once the determination of whether to select or not select Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities or Regional Combinations is made, the selection decision and a quantification of estimated benefits as imputed to each Transmission Provider's service territory will be posted on a password-protected section of the NorthernGrid website. Enrolled Parties Planning Committee may evaluate and select additional Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities into the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan after year three of the Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle and before the next four-year Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle begins. However, if Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities are selected at year three of the Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle, those same Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities cannot be de-selected during the remainder of the current four-year planning cycle. The evaluation process must culminate in determinations that are sufficiently detailed for stakeholders to understand why a particular Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility (or portfolio of such Facilities) was selected or not selected.

3.4.5 Voluntary Funding Option and Processes for Relevant State Entities and Interconnection Customers

If an identified Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility is not deemed to satisfy the selection criteria set forth above for selection in the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan, Relevant State Entities and Interconnection Customers may elect to fund all, or a portion, of the cost of such Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility (or portfolio of such Facilities) that does not otherwise meet the selection criteria detailed above to ensure that it meets the selection criteria.

- At the start of the second quarter of the third year of the Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will (i) provide a voluntary funding option(s) to Relevant State Entities and Interconnection Customers and (ii) publicly post on the NorthernGrid website the Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities evaluated during the Long-Term Regional Planning Cycle, their associated benefit-cost ratios, and any voluntary funding requirements for facilities that did not meet the selection criteria.

- Enrolled Parties Planning Committee will determine the amount of voluntary funding required to ensure that the Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility meets the selection criteria. The amount of voluntary funding is subtracted from the total project cost and shall be equal to the amount that the total project cost must be reduced by to achieve a Benefit-to-Cost Ratio of at least 1.25.

Example x: Calculation of Voluntary Funding Obligation

Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility Capital Cost: \$100M

Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility Net Benefit: \$100M

Benefit-To-Cost Ratio: \$100M Benefit/\$100M Cost = 1.0

Voluntary Funding Need for Selection: \$100M Net Benefit / (\$100M-Voluntary Funding Amount) = 1.25

Voluntary Funding Need: \$20M

Until the end of the third quarter of the third year of the Long-Term Regional Planning Cycle (but not for less than 180 days), Relevant State Entities and Interconnection Customers may exercise the voluntary funding option. Any voluntary funding agreed to by a Relevant State Entity or Interconnection Customer will be memorialized in a written notice of election signed by one or more Relevant State Entities and/or Interconnection Customers (excluding Beneficiaries) agreeing to accept a specific allocation of the Total Project Cost of a proposed Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility.

For any portion of the costs of a selected Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility that is not voluntarily funded by a Relevant State Entity (or Entities) or Interconnection Customer, those remaining costs must be allocated according to the applicable Long-Term Regional Transmission Cost Allocation Method.

3.4.6 Re-Evaluation Process

To ensure Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities continue to meet the selection criteria, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall reevaluate certain Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities that were previously selected in a Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan if any of the three criteria below are satisfied during each Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle. To perform any required reevaluation analysis, updated Long-Term Scenarios and associated transmission system models that are developed for the Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle in which the transmission provider reevaluates the selected Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility shall be used. Reevaluation under this section shall not occur until after the Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility becomes a Committed Project.

3.4.6.1 Criteria Triggering Reevaluation:

Reevaluation will not occur outside the three specified circumstances outlined below. For the latter two circumstances, such reevaluation can only occur within a subsequent

Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan cycle and must consider updated costs and benefits.

3.4.6.1.1 Development Delays that Jeopardize Reliability

A Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility selected in a prior Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan must be reevaluated if there are delays in development of the previously-selected facility that would jeopardize a Transmission Provider's ability to meet its reliability needs or reliability-related service obligations.

3.4.6.1.2 Significant Cost Increases

A Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility selected in a prior Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan must be reevaluated if the project's actual or projected costs significantly exceed the cost estimates that were used in the determination to select the project. Reevaluation under this criterion must occur in a subsequent planning cycle to the cycle in which the Facility was selected. In addition, reevaluation must consider updated benefits in addition to updated costs.

3.4.6.1.3 Significant Changes in Policy

A Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility selected in a prior Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan must be reevaluated if significant changes in federal, Federally-Recognized Tribal Laws and Regulations, state or local laws or regulations cause reasonable concern that a previously selected Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility may no longer meet the selection criteria set forth above. Reevaluation under this criterion must occur in a subsequent planning cycle to the cycle in which the Facility was selected. In addition, reevaluation under this criterion may not occur unless, during the Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Cycle in which the Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility was selected, the Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility's targeted in-service date was in the latter half of the 20-year transmission planning horizon for Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning.

3.4.6.2 Procedures and Potential Outcomes of Reevaluation:

Reevaluation of a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility will ensure that the facility continues to meet the selection criteria outlined in Section 3.4.4.

Potential outcomes of this reevaluation process may include:

- No Action: The Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility continues to meet the selection criteria and is included in subsequent Long-Term Regional Transmission Plans.

- Identification of Additional Mitigation: New or additional Material Adverse Impacts are identified on a Neighboring System. The cost of any newly identified mitigation plans will be added to the project cost and the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio will be recalculated to determine if the facility still meets the selection criteria.
- Reassignment: Reassignment of a Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility to a different transmission developer will be evaluated to determine whether this change impacts the scope, cost, or timing of the facility. Any changes will result in a recalculation of the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio to determine if the facility still meets the selection criteria.
- Modification: Modifications to a previously submitted Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility which impacts the scope, cost, or timing of the Facility will be recalculated to determine if it still meets the selection criteria.
- Removal: The Project Sponsor is no longer sponsoring the Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility, or it no longer meets the selection criteria and is removed from subsequent Long-Term Regional Transmission Plans.

3.4.7 Documentation in Draft Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.4.3 for documentation in the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.4.3 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.4.8 Review and Comment; Consideration of Comments; Update Draft Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.4.4 for reviewing and commenting, consideration of comments, and updating the draft Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.4.4 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.4.9 Comparability

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.4.5 for comparability. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.4.5 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.5 Qualifying to Request Cost Allocation for Long-Term Transmission Facilities

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.5 for qualifying to request cost allocation. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to

Regional Transmission in Section 2.5 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.6 Cost Allocation for Long-Term Transmission Facilities

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.6. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.6 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission. Enrolled Parties will consult with Relevant State Entities before making a future filing under FPA section 205 to revise the Long-Term Regional Transmission Cost Allocation Method and/or State Agreement Process(es) that is on file.

3.7 Multiple Scenarios

When evaluating multiple scenarios, each scenario must have a Benefit-to-Cost Ratio calculated for the Eligible Cost Allocation Project is greater than or equal to 1.25, such project is a "Preliminary Cost Allocation Project. In the event the Benefit-to-Cost Ratio for any scenario for the Eligible Cost Allocation Project is less than 1.25, such project is no longer eligible for cost allocation. The Benefit-to-Cost Ratio will be calculated for sensitivity(ies) for informational purposes.

3.8 Cost Allocation Reevaluation

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.6.5.7 for cost allocation reevaluation. For the purpose of this Section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.6.5.7 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.9 Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan

3.9.1 Preparation and Posting of Draft Final Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow Section 2.7 in preparing and posting a Draft Final Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan. For the purpose of this section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.7 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

3.9.2 Review and Comment; Consideration of Comments; Update Draft Final Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan; Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan

Upon development of the Draft Final Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee must post the Draft Final Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan on the NorthernGrid Website and conduct a public meeting and comment period. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee shall follow the procedures in Section 2.7.2. For the purpose of this section, any reference to Regional Transmission in Section 2.7.2 shall be considered as Long-Term Regional Transmission.

SECTION 4. Interregional Coordination and Cost Allocation Process

4.1 Introduction

This Section 4 of Attachment K sets forth common provisions, which are to be adopted by or for each Planning Region and which facilitate the implementation of Regional Transmission Planning and Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning interregional provisions. NorthernGrid is to conduct the activities and processes set forth in this Section 4 of Attachment K.

Nothing in this Section 4 of Attachment K will preclude any transmission owner or transmission provider from taking any action it deems necessary or appropriate with respect to any transmission facilities it needs to comply with any local, state, or federal requirements.

Any Interregional Cost Allocation regarding any ITP is solely for the purpose of developing information to be used in the regional planning process of each Relevant Planning Region, including the regional cost allocation process and methodologies of each such Relevant Planning Region.

References in this Section 4 of Attachment K to any transmission planning processes, including cost allocations, are references to transmission planning processes pursuant to Order No. 1000 and Order No. 1920.

4.2 Annual Interregional Information Exchange

Annually, prior to the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting, NorthernGrid is to make available by posting on the NorthernGrid Website or otherwise provide to each of the other Planning Regions the following information, to the extent such information is available in its regional transmission planning process, relating to regional transmission needs (Enrolled Party Needs) in NorthernGrid's Enrolled Region and Potential Solutions thereto:

- (i) Study Scope or underlying information that would typically be included in a Study Scope, such as:
 - a. Identification of base cases;
 - b. Planning study assumptions; and
 - c. Study methodologies;
- (ii) initial study reports (or system assessments); and
- (iii) Regional Transmission Plan
- (iv) Information regarding Long-Term Transmission Needs
 - (a) The Long-Term Transmission Needs discussed in the interregional transmission coordination meetings;

- (b) Any interregional transmission facilities proposed or identified in response to the Long-Term Transmission Needs;
- (c) The voltage level, estimated cost, and estimated in-service date of the interregional transmission facilities proposed or identified as part of Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning;
- (d) The results of any cost-benefit evaluation of such interregional transmission facilities, with results including both any overall benefits identified, as well as any benefits particular to each transmission planning region; and
- (e) The interregional transmission facilities, if any, selected in the regional transmission plan for purposes of cost allocation to meet Long-Term Transmission Needs.

(Collectively referred to as “Annual Interregional Information.”)

NorthernGrid is to post its Annual Interregional Information on the NorthernGrid Website according to its regional transmission planning process. Each other Planning Region may use in its regional transmission planning process NorthernGrid’s Annual Interregional Information. NorthernGrid may use, in its regional transmission planning process, the Annual Interregional Information provided by other Planning Regions.

NorthernGrid is not required to make available or otherwise provide to any other Planning Region (i) any information not developed by NorthernGrid in the ordinary course of its regional transmission planning process; (ii) any Annual Interregional Information to be provided by any other Planning Region with respect to such other Planning Region; or (iii) any information if NorthernGrid reasonably determines that making such information available or otherwise providing such information would constitute a violation of the Commission’s Standards of Conduct or any other legal requirement.

Annual Interregional Information made available or otherwise provided by NorthernGrid shall be subject to applicable confidentiality and CEII restrictions and other applicable laws, under NorthernGrid’s regional transmission planning process. Any Annual Interregional Information made available or otherwise provided by NorthernGrid shall be “AS IS” and any reliance by the receiving Planning Region on such Annual Interregional Information is at its own risk, without warranty and without any liability of NorthernGrid, Transmission Provider, or any entity supplying information in NorthernGrid’s regional transmission planning process, including any liability for (a) any errors or omissions in such Annual Interregional Information, or (b) any delay or failure to provide such Annual Interregional Information.

4.3 Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting

The NorthernGrid Enrolled Region is to participate in an Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting with the other Planning Regions. NorthernGrid is to host the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting in turn with the other Planning Regions and is to seek to convene such meeting in February, but not later than June 30th. The Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting is to be open to stakeholders. NorthernGrid is to provide notice of the meeting to its stakeholders in accordance with its regional transmission planning process.

At the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting, topics discussed may include the following:

1. Each Planning Region's most recent Annual Interregional Information (to the extent it is not confidential or protected by CEII or other legal restrictions);
2. Identification and preliminary discussion of interregional solutions that may meet regional transmission needs or Long-Term Regional Transmission Needs in each of two or more Planning Regions more cost-effectively or efficiently;
3. Updates of the status of any ITP being evaluated or previously included in NorthernGrid's Regional Transmission Plan; and
4. Information regarding respective Long-Term Transmission Needs as well as Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities to meet those needs.

4.4 ITP Joint Evaluation Process

4.4.1 Submission Requirements

A ITP Proponent may seek to have its ITP jointly evaluated by the Relevant Planning Regions pursuant to Section 4.4.2 by submitting the ITP into the regional transmission planning process of each Relevant Planning Region in accordance with such Relevant Planning Region's regional transmission planning process and no later than March 31st of any even-numbered calendar year. Such proponent of an ITP seeking to connect to a transmission facility owned by multiple transmission owners in more than one Planning Region must submit the ITP to each such Planning Region in accordance with such Planning Region's regional transmission planning process. In addition to satisfying each Relevant Planning Region's information requirements, the proponent of an ITP must include with its submittal to each Relevant Planning Region a list of all Planning Regions to which the ITP is being submitted.

4.4.2 Joint Evaluation of an ITP

For each ITP that meets the requirements of Section 4.4.1, the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region (if it is a Relevant Planning Region) is to participate in a joint evaluation by the Relevant Planning Regions that is to commence in the calendar year of the ITP's submittal in accordance with Section 4.4.1 or the immediately following calendar year. With respect to any such ITP, the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region (if it is a Relevant Planning Region) is to confer with the other Relevant Planning Region(s) regarding the following:

- (i) ITP data and projected ITP costs; and
- (ii) The study assumptions and methodologies it is to use in evaluating the ITP pursuant to its regional transmission planning process.

For each ITP that meets the requirements of Section 4.4.1, the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region (if it is a Relevant Planning Region):

- a. Is to seek to resolve any differences it has with the other Relevant Planning Regions relating to the ITP or to information specific to other Relevant Planning Regions insofar as such differences may affect NorthernGrid's evaluation of the ITP;
- b. Is to provide stakeholders an opportunity to participate in NorthernGrid's activities under this Section 4.4.2 in accordance with its regional transmission planning process and the Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning process;
- c. Is to notify the other Relevant Planning Regions if the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region determines that the ITP will not meet any of its regional transmission needs or Long-Term Regional Transmission Needs; thereafter the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region has no obligation under this Section 4.4.2 to participate in the joint evaluation of the ITP; and
- d. Is to process the ITP in accordance with its regional transmission planning process.

4.5 Interregional Cost Allocation Process

4.5.1 Submission Requirements

For any ITP that has been properly submitted in each Relevant Planning Region's regional transmission planning process in accordance with Section 4.4.1, an ITP Proponent may also request Interregional Cost Allocation by requesting such cost allocation from the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region and each other Relevant Planning Region in accordance with its regional transmission planning process. The ITP Proponent must include with its submittal to each Relevant Planning Region a list of all Planning Regions in which Interregional Cost Allocation is being requested.

4.5.2 Interregional Cost Allocation Process

For each ITP that meets the requirements of Section 4.5.1, the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region (if it is a Relevant Planning Region) is to confer with or notify, as appropriate, any other Relevant Planning Region(s) regarding the following:

- (i) Assumptions and inputs to be used by each Relevant Planning Region for purposes of determining benefits in accordance with its regional cost allocation methodology, as applied to ITPs;
- (ii) The NorthernGrid Enrolled Region's regional benefits stated in dollars resulting from the ITP, if any; and
- (iii) Assignment of projected costs of the ITP (subject to potential reassignment of projected costs pursuant to Section 4.6.2) to each Relevant Planning Region using the methodology described in this Section 4.5.2.

For each ITP that meets the requirements of Section 4.5.1, the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region (if it is a Relevant Planning Region):

- a. Is to seek to resolve with the other Relevant Planning Regions any differences relating to ITP data or to information specific to other Relevant Planning Regions insofar as such differences may affect NorthernGrid's analysis;
- b. Is to provide stakeholders an opportunity to participate in NorthernGrid's activities under this Section 4.5.2 in accordance with its regional transmission planning process;
- c. Is to determine its regional benefits, stated in dollars, resulting from an ITP; in making such determination of its regional benefits in the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region, NorthernGrid is to use its regional cost allocation methodology, as applied to ITPs;
- d. Is to calculate its assigned *pro rata* share of the projected costs of the ITP, stated in a specific dollar amount, equal to its share of the total benefits identified by the Relevant Planning Regions multiplied by the projected costs of the ITP;
- e. Is to share with the other Relevant Planning Regions information regarding what its regional cost allocation would be if it were to select the ITP in its Regional Transmission Plan for purposes of Interregional Cost Allocation; the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region may use such information to identify its total share of the projected costs of the ITP to be assigned to the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region in order to determine whether the ITP is a more efficient or cost-effective solution to a transmission need in the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region;
- f. Is to determine whether to select the ITP in its Regional Transmission Plan for purposes of Interregional Cost Allocation, based on its regional transmission planning process; and
- g. Is to endeavor to perform its Interregional Cost Allocation activities pursuant to this Section 4.5.2 in the same general time frame as its joint evaluation activities pursuant to Section 4.4.2.

4.6 Application of Regional Cost Allocation Methodology to Selected ITP

4.6.1 Selection by All Relevant Planning Regions

If the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region (if it is a Relevant Planning Region) and all of the other Relevant Planning Regions select an ITP in their respective regional transmission plans for purposes of Interregional Cost Allocation, the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region is to apply its regional cost allocation methodology to the projected costs of the ITP assigned to it under Sections 4.5.2(d) or 4.5.2(e) above in accordance with its regional cost allocation methodology, as applied to ITPs.

4.6.2 Selection by at Least Two but Fewer than All Relevant Planning Regions

If the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region (if it is a Relevant Planning Region) and at least one, but fewer than all of the other Relevant Planning Regions select the ITP in their respective regional transmission plans for purposes of Interregional Cost Allocation, the NorthernGrid is to evaluate (or reevaluate, as the case may be) pursuant to Sections 4.5.2(d), 4.5.2(e), and 4.5.2(f) above whether, without the participation of the non-selecting Relevant Planning Region(s), the ITP is selected (or remains selected, as the case may be) in its Regional Transmission Plan for purposes for Interregional Cost Allocation. Such reevaluation(s) are to be repeated as many times as necessary until the number of selecting Relevant Planning Regions does not change with such reevaluation.

If following such evaluation (or reevaluation), the number of selecting Relevant Planning Regions does not change and the ITP remains selected for purposes of Interregional Cost Allocation in the respective Regional Transmission Plans of the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region and at least one other Relevant Planning Region, the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region is to apply its regional cost allocation methodology to the projected costs of the ITP assigned to it under Sections 4.5.2(d) or 4.5.2(e) above in accordance with its regional cost allocation methodology, as applied to ITPs.

4.7 ITPs, Joint Evaluation, and Interregional Cost Allocation

4.7.1 Introduction

This Section 4.7 of Attachment K only applies to ITPs for which the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region is a Relevant Planning Region and does not apply to any ITP for which the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region is not a Relevant Planning Region.

4.7.2 Entities That May Submit an ITP for Joint Evaluation

Any Person that seeks to submit an ITP for joint evaluation pursuant to Section 4 of this Attachment K must submit the ITP into the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region's regional transmission planning process in accordance with Section 2.3.3 of this Attachment K, and must submit the ITP into the planning process of all Relevant Planning Regions.

4.7.3 Confirmation from Relevant Planning Regions

NorthernGrid is to seek to confirm with each other Relevant Planning Region that such Enrolled Party or ITP Proponent has submitted such ITP for evaluation into the regional transmission planning process of each other Relevant Planning Region in accordance with the regional transmission planning process of such Relevant Planning Region(s). In the event that NorthernGrid is unable to confirm that the Enrolled Party or ITP Proponent has submitted its ITP for evaluation into the regional transmission planning process of each other Relevant Planning Region in accordance with the regional transmission planning process of such Relevant Planning Region(s), NorthernGrid is to notify the ITP Proponent in writing, and the ITP Proponent is to have thirty (30) calendar days from the date of such notice to provide NorthernGrid evidence, reasonably acceptable to NorthernGrid, that the ITP Proponent has timely submitted its ITP for evaluation to each other Relevant Planning Region(s). If an ITP Proponent fails to provide such evidence, the ITP Proponent's ITP is to be deemed withdrawn.

4.7.4 Submit ITP Information

Prior to commencing the joint evaluation of an ITP pursuant to Section 4 of this Attachment K, an ITP Proponent that is seeking such evaluation of an ITP is to submit to the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region information in accordance with Section 2.3.3 of this Attachment K, which is, to the extent permitted by law, to include a copy of all ITP data being submitted by the ITP Proponent to any of the other Relevant Planning Regions for such ITP.

4.7.5 Joint Evaluation Implementation

For purposes of the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region's evaluation of an ITP pursuant to Section 4 of this Attachment K, evaluation of such ITP is to be through the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region's transmission planning processes as set forth in this Attachment K.

4.7.6 Interregional Cost Allocation Process

For each ITP that meets the requirements of Sections 4.7.1 and 4.7.2, the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region (if and so long as it is a Relevant Planning Region) is to:

- (i) Pursuant to item (c) of Section 4.5.2 of this Attachment K, determine the amount, if any, of Regional Benefits for Purposes of Interregional Cost Allocation resulting from such ITP;
- (ii) Pursuant to item (ii) of Section 4.5.2 of this Attachment K, notify each of the other Relevant Planning Regions with respect to such ITP of the amount of Regional Benefits for Purposes of Interregional Cost Allocation of such ITP so determined;
- (iii) Pursuant to item (d) of Section 4.5.2, calculate the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region's assigned pro rata share of the projected costs of such ITP (such share is also referred to as "Assigned Regional Costs from Interregional Cost Allocation"), which share is to be equal to the product of the projected costs of such ITP multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is to be the amount of Regional Benefits for Purposes of

Interregional Cost Allocation of such ITP determined pursuant to item (i) above and the denominator of which is to be the sum of (a) the amount of Regional Benefits for Purposes of Interregional Cost Allocation of such ITP determined pursuant to item (i) above and (b) the sum of the regional benefits of each other Relevant Planning Region as calculated with respect to such ITP by such other Relevant Planning Region in accordance with its regional transmission planning process and provided to the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region by such other Relevant Planning Region;

- (iv) If an ITP is identified as an Eligible Cost Allocation Project pursuant to Section 2.6.3, NorthernGrid's Cost Allocation Task Force is to proceed with the cost allocation analysis described in Section 2.6.5. Pursuant to item (e) of Section 4.5.2 of this Attachment K, NorthernGrid is to share the above determination with the other Relevant Planning Regions with regard to such ITP; and
- (v) If NorthernGrid receives information pursuant to item (e) of Section 4.5.2 of Attachment K from one or more other Relevant Planning Regions regarding what such Relevant Planning Region's regional cost allocation would be if it were to select the ITP in its Regional Transmission Plan for purposes of Interregional Cost Allocation and what, if any, additional amount of projected project costs of such ITP its methodology would be attributable to the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region, the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region may use such information to identify an additional amount of projected costs of the ITP to be assigned to the NorthernGrid Enrolled Region if such additional amount is properly allocable to an Beneficiary(ies) as an owner(s) or operator(s) of such ITP (any such additional, properly allocable, amount is also referred to as "Additional Regional Costs from Interregional Cost Allocation").

SECTION 5 Economic Study Request

5.1 Performance of Economic Studies

5.1.1 Regional

NorthernGrid, in coordination with Enrolled Parties and the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee, is to perform in accordance with this Section 5 of this Attachment K economic studies pursuant to requests submitted by stakeholders in accordance with Section 5.2.1 of this Attachment K related to conditions within the Enrolled Party Region.

5.1.2 Local

Transmission Provider, in accordance with this Section 5 of this Attachment K, is to perform economic studies pursuant to requests submitted by stakeholders in accordance with Section 5.2.2 of this Attachment K related to conditions within the Transmission Provider's Transmission System.

5.2 Stakeholder Requests to Perform an Economic Study

5.2.1 Regional

A stakeholder, which includes Enrolled Parties, may request that NorthernGrid initiate a study to examine scenarios where potential transmission solutions or investments could result in:

- a. a net reduction in total production cost to supply system load;
- b. reduced congestion; or
- c. the integration of new resources and/or loads on an aggregate or regional basis (a “Regional Economic Study”).

5.2.2 Local

A stakeholder may request that Transmission Provider initiate a study related to conditions within the Transmission Provider’s Transmission System to examine scenarios where potential transmission solutions or investments could result in:

- (i) a net reduction in total production cost to supply system load;
- (ii) reduced congestion; or
- (iii) the integration of new resources and/or loads on an aggregate basis (a “Local Economic Study”).

5.2.3 Study Characteristics

Any economic study performed must focus on evaluating high-level metrics depicting various possible future scenarios of expanding the power system and quantifying the advantages and disadvantages associated with each scenario. Any Economic Study Request that seeks to focus on the performance of individual assets shall not be performed.

5.2.4 Study Report

A Regional Economic Study is documented in a stand-alone report that is separate from the Regional Transmission Plan. A Local Economic Study is documented in a stand-alone report that is separate from the Local Transmission Plan and the Regional Transmission Plan.

5.3 Submission, Consideration and Prioritization of Economic Study Requests

Requests for a Regional Economic Study or a Local Economic Study shall be submitted, considered and prioritized as follows:

- a. Between January 1 and March 31 each year, a stakeholder may submit a Regional Economic Study request to NorthernGrid through the NorthernGrid Website; and a stakeholder may submit a Local Economic Study Request to the Transmission Provider by completing the request form which is maintained on Transmission Provider's OASIS.
- b. Any Economic Study Request must describe the information to be evaluated and include information known by the requester that is relevant to the requested study.
- c. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee, in the context of a request for a Regional Economic Study, is to develop a rough work scope and cost estimate for all requested Regional Economic Studies and develop a preliminary prioritization or a recommendation to cluster, based on the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee's perceived regional benefits, to assist in the prioritization of Regional Economic Study requests. The Transmission Provider, in the context of a request for a Local Economic Study, is to develop a rough work scope and cost estimate for all requested Local Economic Studies associated with the Transmission Provider, and develop preliminary prioritization based on the Transmission Provider's perceived local benefits, to assist in the prioritization of Local Economic Study Requests, which may include clustering, if appropriate.
- d. By no later than June 1 of each year, NorthernGrid is to hold a meeting of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee for the members of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee to discuss, identify, and prioritize, up to one (1) Regional Economic Study to be performed in a given year by NorthernGrid, and at no cost to the requestor, taking into consideration its impact on the NorthernGrid budget and other priorities. By no later than June 1 of each year, Transmission Provider receiving a Local Economic Study Request is to identify and prioritize, up to one (1) Local Economic Study to be performed in a given year by the Transmission Provider, and at no cost to the requestor, taking into consideration the impact of performing such study on the Transmission Provider's budget and its other priorities. Regional Economic Studies and Local Economic Studies are intended to be completed by calendar year-end.
- e. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee in the context of a Regional Economic Study or the Transmission Provider in the context of a Local Economic Study may respectively agree to hold additional meetings to further discuss and resolve any issue concerning the substance of the Regional Economic Studies or Local Economic Studies themselves and/or their prioritization.
- f. The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to publish a notice on the NorthernGrid Website detailing the prioritization of the Regional Economic Studies. The Transmission Provider is to publish a notice on its OASIS detailing the prioritization of Local Economic Studies.

The foregoing timelines are subject to adjustment as determined by the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee in the context of Regional Economic Studies or the Transmission Provider in the context of Local Economic Studies.

Any study proponent may request and pay for NorthernGrid to perform a Regional Economic Study beyond the one Regional Economic Study per year identified in Section 5.3(d), and any study proponent may request and pay for the Transmission Provider to perform a Local Economic Study beyond the one Local Economic Study per year identified in Section 5.3(d).

5.4 Support for the Preparation of Economic Studies

5.4.1 Regional

For the development of each Regional Economic Study, the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to coordinate with the Enrolled Parties to support NorthernGrid's performance of any economic study. To facilitate this support, NorthernGrid is to post on the NorthernGrid Website the models, files, cases, contingencies, assumptions, and other information used to perform an economic study. NorthernGrid may establish requirements that any Enrolled Party or member of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee must satisfy in order to access certain information used to perform the economic study, due to CEII constraints. NorthernGrid may ask Enrolled Parties or Enrolled Parties Planning Committee members with special expertise to provide technical support or perform studies required to assess one or more potential needs that will be considered in the Regional Economic Study process. NorthernGrid is to convene meetings open to any representative of an entity that is a member of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee to facilitate input on draft Regional Economic Studies.

5.4.2 Local

For the development of a Local Economic Study, the Transmission Provider is to post on its OASIS the models, files, cases, contingencies, assumptions, and other information used to perform the Local Economic Study. The Transmission Provider may establish requirements that must be satisfied in order to access certain information used to perform the Local Economic Study, due to CEII constraints.

5.5 Publication of Economic Study Report

The Enrolled Parties Planning Committee is to post its Regional Economic Study reports on the NorthernGrid Website, subject to CEII constraints. Transmission Provider is to post its Local Economic Study reports on its OASIS, subject to CEII constraints. Economic Studies containing CEII will be posted as password-protected documents.

SECTION 6. Dispute Resolution

6.1 Scope

Transmission Provider and Any Enrolled Party, Non-Incumbent Transmission Developer, ITP Proponent, Merchant Transmission Developer, Eligible Customer, or stakeholder that participates in the Local, Regional or Long-Term Regional Planning Process outlined in this Attachment K shall utilize the dispute resolution process set forth in this Section 6 to resolve procedural and substantive disputes related thereto.

6.2 Process

The following dispute resolution process shall be followed, in an effort to resolve all disputes related to this Attachment K:

- Step 1: The disputing entity shall provide prompt written notice of the dispute to the chairs of the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee; or to the Transmission Provider, in the case of a dispute regarding the Local Planning Process in Section 1 by submitting a completed Dispute Resolution form, which is available on the NorthernGrid Website, in accordance with the instructions contained on the form.
- Step 2: An executive representative from the disputing entity shall participate in good faith negotiations with the chairs the Enrolled Parties Planning Committee; or an executive representative from the Transmission Provider, in the case of a dispute regarding the Local Planning Process in Section 1 to resolve the dispute as promptly as practicable. In the event the executive representative and the chairs or Transmission Provider executive representative are unable to resolve the dispute by mutual agreement within thirty (30) calendar days of the written notice of dispute, or such other period as the parties may mutually agree upon, the parties shall proceed to Step 3.
- Step 3: In furtherance of efforts to resolve the dispute the parties may utilize an agreed-upon third-party, or the Commission's dispute resolution service, to facilitate mediation to resolve the dispute. If the dispute remains unresolved after Step 3, the disputing entity shall proceed to Step 4.
- Step 4: As a last resort, the disputing entity may invoke the arbitration procedures set out in Article 12 of the pro forma Open Access Transmission Tariff to resolve the dispute.

6.3 Timeliness

To facilitate the timely completion of the Local Transmission Plan, the Regional Transmission Plan, and the Long-Term Regional Transmission Plan, disputes over any matter shall be raised timely; provided, however, in no case shall a dispute under this Section 6 be raised more than 30 calendar days after a decision is made in the study process or the posting of a document, whichever is earlier. Except to the extent that a binding arbitration decision has been rendered pursuant to Step 4 above, nothing contained in this Section 6 shall restrict the rights of any entity to file a complaint with the Commission under relevant provisions of the Federal Power Act.