Supplemental Project Notice

FERC ORDER 1920: COLLABORATIVE FORUM AND READINESS EVALUATION

ORDER NO. 1920 LONG-TERM REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Identify capabilities, processes, tools, and data needed to enable implementation of FERC Order 1920
- Develop roadmap for entities to meet the FERC Order 1920 requirements
- Enhance industry understanding of the the key challenges, gaps, and implementation needs based on research learning and industry best practices
- Facilitate collaboration and sharing of developed long-term planning processes and tools across regions
- Implementation of EPRI methods or commercial processes to meet requirements

Background, Objectives, and New Learnings

The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Order No. 1920, or "1920", introduces a need for comprehensive and integrated planning approaches by reforming existing transmission planning processes in the electric utility industry. While a series of FERC orders over recent years have provided a foundation for enhancements to transmission planning processes, a growing body of evidence suggests that the breadth and pace of transmission development has not kept up with the needs of a decarbonizing and increasingly interconnected 21st century bulk electricity system.

Further, several recent wide-scale events have demonstrated the reliability and resilience benefits of the transmission system. Developing a more holistic and multi-disciplinary approach to transmission planning that encourages efficient and cost-effective development and expansion of the transmission system is beneficial to both system operators and energy customers. Order 1920 expands upon previous regulatory directives to coordinate long-term scenario development and planning, quantification of reliability benefits, and evaluation of emerging alternative transmission technologies.

Benefits

Order No. 1920 is expected to overhaul the transmission expansion planning process to ensure better transmission planning with a strong focus on public benefit. The main objective of this project is to enable utilities to identify the necessary changes to their planning processes and study methods to better align with the requirements set forth by 1920. These approaches will be informed by EPRI research and help capture effective methods and tools that will support alignment with 1920 requirements.

Project Approach and Summary

This is a collaborative project designed to address specific stakeholder needs through a phased approach.

Phase 1: Readiness Evaluation: 1920 requires comprehensive case building and analysis processes, including: developing ***long-term planning scenarios*** (at least 20 years into the future) and associated sensitivity conditions; ***benefit evaluations*** across seven defined

metrics for planned transmission system investments; and ***alternative transmission technologies*** evaluations to improve the reliability and resilience of the transmission system. EPRI plans to develop a common approach and assess each participating entity's capability to meet Order 1920 requirements through the following tasks:

- Establish a catalog of necessary capabilities to enable technical alignment with the requirements of 1920.
- Review an entity's processes and tools to determine their capability to support the technical and analytical needs of 1920.
- Identify gaps in current long term transmission planning processes and frameworks.
- Based on identified capabilities, develop an action plan for an entity to be able to meet the technical and analytical requirements defined by 1920.

Phase 2: Customized Assessment: For identified gaps and the action plan developed from Phase 1, EPRI will create customized assessments for participating members. These assessments can include:

- Application of EPRI research and tools to develop new methods and frameworks within companies.
- Case study and demonstration to inform the development of methods and frameworks.
- Development of best available datasets for climate and weather projections, technology forecasts, and energy risk evaluations.

Deliverables

Each Phase 1 funder will receive company specific:

- Readiness evaluations for 1920 based on the EPRI-developed capability framework.
- Summary action plan describing evolution of practices needed to align with 1920.

The collaborative will receive:

- Webcasts to provide education, share industry practices across stakeholders and jurisdictions.
- Briefs describing technical requirements, terminology, and timelines defined in the Order.
- A report capturing industry-wide practices, including a review of methodological approaches and software capabilities.

Phase 2 funders will receive customized deliverables based on the company specific scope of work.

Price of Project

The cost of this project is $60,000 for Phase 1 for transmission providers, public utilities, and other planning entities. For ISOs and RTOs, the cost will be $40,000. This can be spread across 2024 and 2025. The project qualifies for self-directed funds (SDF). A minimum of six funders will be required for the project to complete the full scope.

Pricing for Phase 2 will be determined based on the customized scope of work.

Project Status and Schedule

Phase 1 of this project began in November 2024 and is planned for 12–18 months. The project will initiate once there are three participating funders.

The timeline and schedule for Phase 2 will be determined based on the scope of work needed to support the funding member.

Who Should Join

This project is directly relevant for ISOs/RTOs, transmission providers, public utilities, vertically integrated utilities, and other planning entities that are within FERC jurisdictional ISO/RTO organized electricity markets. It may also provide value to other entities that are evaluating efficient and cost-effective regional and interregional transmission planning frameworks to address long-term transmission needs.

Contact Information

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