



ITCS

Interregional Transfer Capability Study

A strong, flexible transmission system that is capable of coping with a wide variety of system conditions is key for the reliable supply and delivery of electricity. NERC is conducting the Interregional Transfer Capability Study to analyze the amount of power that can be moved or transferred reliably from one area to another area of the interconnected transmission systems. The study, which was directed in the [Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023](#), must be filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by December 2, 2024.

2023 Fourth Quarter Update

NERC continues to steadily move the ITCS project forward—finalizing the Framework, developing scoping documents for the transfer capability analysis and prudent additions to transfer capability, and honing a data request to industry—all important steps toward producing a technically sound North American transfer capability study that is crucial to the future of the electric industry.

Key Activities

Framework

The Advisory Group convened its first meeting on October 31. The ITCS Project Team provided members with an overview of the study requirements detailed in the Fiscal Responsibility Act, discussed roles and responsibilities, and highlighted key input areas and timelines. One of the first priorities for the Advisory Group was a review and comment period of the draft [ITCS Framework](#).

[Comments](#), which were discussed at the November 28 Advisory Group meeting, were grouped by theme in seven categories: transfer capability assumptions and considerations; clarifying study scope; modeling and metrics; base case/extreme scenario commentary; clarifying study timing; inclusion of Canadian regulators/regions; and others. Comments have been used to inform the final Framework document.

The [Advisory Group](#) represents diverse industry expertise

across regional transmission planning areas in North America, including representatives from stakeholders in each Regional Entity footprint and Canada.

Scoping Documents

The ITCS Project Team developed two draft scoping documents to address the transfer capability analysis and to document an approach to determine prudent additions to transfer capability, referred to in the ITCS timeline as [Part I](#) and [Part II](#). This includes case and scenario development; production, dispatch and energy adequacy analysis; and transfer analysis. This is a work in progress, and the approach continues to be refined. The two scoping documents have been posted for Advisory Group feedback. Finalized scoping documents are expected to be completed by January 31.

Data Request

The Project Team, comprised of NERC and the Regional



Want More?
[Visit the ITCS Web Page](#)

Entities, developed a data request that was sent to industry this month. The data request will be used to update MOD-032 base cases with the most up-to-date information on transmission topology, loads, resource forecasts, etc., for the Western and Eastern Interconnections. The deadline for industry to respond to this Section 800 data request is January 17, 2024.

Stakeholder Outreach

The ERO Enterprise (NERC and the Regional Entities) developed a comprehensive stakeholder outreach plan to ensure that all North American transmitting utilities are able to provide input into the ITCS. Regional Entities are already working with their technical committees, which will continue throughout 2024. The study directive in Fiscal Responsibility Act requires that NERC perform the ITCS in consultation with all transmitting utilities that have facilities interconnected with a transmitting utility in a neighboring transmission planning region.

Next Steps

The Advisory Group’s next meeting is scheduled for January 25 at NERC’s office in Washington, D.C. The in-person meeting will allow for more in-depth discussion on topics including the review of Part I: Transfer Analysis and Part II: Prudent Additions to Transfer Capability approach and assumptions. There will also be a virtual option. The Advisory Group’s [meeting schedule](#) has been set throughout the lifecycle of the project.

The completion of the ITCS Framework and scoping

Resources

Saad Malik joined NERC as the Transmission Assessment manager on October 30 in support of a broad range of transmission reliability studies, including the ITCS. Malik has more than 20 years of experience in the electric industry and was previously the director of Reliability Assessment at WECC, so his transition leading the ITCS Project Team has been seamless. Mohamed Osman (principal engineer) joined NERC’s Transmission Assessment team and will support the ITCS project. Osman was previously lead engineer on NERC’s Power System Analysis team and brings more than 30 years of experience in industry to this role.

NERC has contracted with Telos Energy and PowerGem to provide consulting support with the data gathering and analysis work to be performed by the ITCS Project Team. Both organizations have the expertise needed to support the ITCS Project Team through this complex project.

documents for Part I and Part II of ITCS marks the end of Phase 0: Study Preparation. Phase 1: Analysis begins in the first quarter of 2024 and is scheduled to be completed in July 2024.

For more information and resources, visit the [ITCS web page](#) on [NERC’s website](#). For ITCS-related questions, email the [ITCS Project Team](#).

Study Schedule

