

Announcement

ITCS Overview Provides Foundational Look at Study Approach

June 27, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A strong, flexible transmission system that is capable of coping with a wide variety of conditions is key for the reliable supply and delivery of electricity. In recognition of the crucial role that transmission adequacy plays, Congress, in its Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, directed NERC to conduct the Interregional Transfer Capability Study (ITCS).

Since that mandate, NERC has made enormous progress on addressing this complex initiative. The [ITCS Overview of Study Need and Approach](#)—the first of four planned ITCS reports—provides the foundation for the project by detailing transfer capability calculations and the methodology used to make recommendations for prudent additions.

The goal of the ITCS is to identify locations between Transmission Planning Regions where enhanced transfer capability would strengthen the grid’s reliability. As the United States and Canada share an interconnected bulk power system, NERC deemed that a Canadian analysis would be necessary to provide a more complete review of transmission capability.

The study is being performed in consultation with NERC’s six Regional Entities and each transmitting utility across North America, including significant collaboration with Transmission Planners, Planning Coordinators, Transmission Operators, Transmission Owners, state/provincial/federal partners, utilities, and trade groups. To ensure diverse expertise from across North America’s regional transmission areas, an Advisory Group was established to provide input from study design and execution to recommendations and final reports.

In addition to the Overview, the project will consist of the following reports:

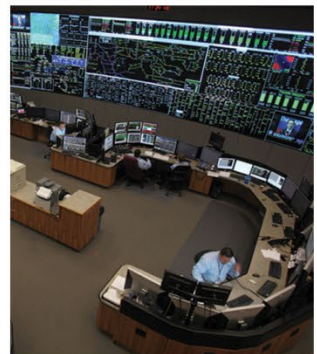
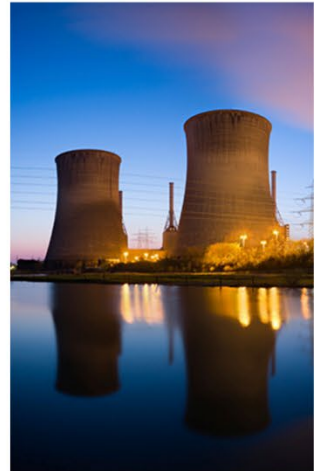
- **Transfer Capability Analysis (Part 1):** Describes the total transfer capability between neighboring Transmission Planning Regions (August)
- **Prudent Additions (Part 2) and Recommendations (Part 3):** Identifies “prudent additions” to transfer capability between neighboring areas and the recommendations to meet and maintain transfer capability (November)

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- **Canadian Analysis:** Evaluates transfer capabilities from the United States to Canada and between Canadian provinces (Q1 2025)

Since launching the project, NERC has developed data requests and built study cases and scenarios for transfer capability analysis, which contain the most up-to-date information on transmission topology, loads, resource forecasts, and other inputs for the Western and Eastern Interconnections. As directed by Congress, the final study will be filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by December 2, 2024.

In conjunction with the Overview, NERC has developed other materials to help explain the project, including a [video](#) detailing the project, an [infographic](#) highlighting key steps, and an [ITCS web page](#).

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Electricity is a key component of the fabric of modern society and NERC, as the Electric Reliability Organization, serves to strengthen that fabric. The vision for the ERO Enterprise, which is comprised of NERC and the six Regional Entities, is a highly reliable and secure North American bulk power system. Our mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid.