

factsheet

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Network Integration Transmission service

This fact sheet is intended to help existing customers understand how resources can be added to their Network Integration Transmission (NT) service contracts as designated network resources. There has been little change in designated network resources since BPA offered NT service contracts in 1996. Most NT customers have a "BPA Power Sales Contract" as their primary designated network resource to serve either all or the majority of their NT load.

Characteristics of NT service

NT service is an open access transmission tariff (OATT) service designed to allow customers to deliver energy from multiple resources to their load under one transmission contract. The customer pays for use of the transmission system based on its network load at BPA's monthly transmission system peak.

As customer load growth increases, BPA is responsible to plan, construct, operate and maintain the Federal Columbia River Transmission System to provide transmission service for an NT customer from the customer's designated network resources to its network load through the term of the NT contract. This includes service for load growth, in accordance with good utility practice. By contrast, firm long-term point-to-point transmission (PTP) service is based on a specified take-or-pay reservation demand from a single identified point of receipt to an identified point of delivery. Unless the PTP customer takes action to acquire additional transmission demand through an application for incremental PTP Service, BPA is not obligated to plan the system to meet its load growth.

Application process to modify NT service

Each existing NT service customer is required to submit an application to request a modification to its existing resources under its NT service contract.

Applications for modifications to a customer's resources under its NT service contract are queued along with applications for PTP service. The long-term transmission request queue applications are entered and processed based on the time stamp of the request.

How applications are evaluated

BPA will evaluate the effect of the requested modification on flows across the transmission system and whether it results in additional capacity needs. When evaluating whether there is adequate available transfer capability (ATC) to grant the requested modification, BPA applies the capacity currently reserved to move the designated network resources to network load to the capacity needed to carry out the requested modification of service.

If there are additional capacity impacts, BPA must determine whether ATC is available to grant the request. If ATC is not available, a system impact study is offered.

Financing of network upgrades

If capacity is not available, studies are conducted at the customer's expense to determine whether network upgrades/reinforcements are necessary to provide the service and, if so, what those upgrades/reinforcements are. The customer is responsible for providing advance funds for the network upgrade/reinforcement and is reimbursed for the financing plus interest through transmission credits.

BPA has adopted this financing policy as a way to mitigate pressures on Treasury borrowing and to ensure BPA does not incur stranded costs associated with transmission expansion.

Please contact your BPA transmission account executive with questions or for more information.

