

North Carolina Transmission Planning Collaborative

For Immediate Release, January 20, 2010

Collaborative Regional Transmission Plan IDs major projects

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Participants in the North Carolina Transmission Planning Collaborative (NCTPC) have identified 18 major transmission projects, representing more than \$595 million in investments over the next decade, as part of the 2009-2019 Collaborative Transmission Plan for North Carolina (2009 Plan). Some projects from the prior plan have been delayed to reflect reduced load forecasts resulting from the weak economy, as well as the demand-reduction benefits of the utilities' strong energy-efficiency efforts.

The collaborative was formed in 2005 to develop a shared plan for electric transmission system enhancements in the state. Participants include Duke Energy Carolinas, Progress Energy Carolinas, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation and ElectriCities of North Carolina.

The scope of the 2009 planning study included a base reliability analysis for transmission needs to meet load growth between 2010 and 2019 as well as analysis of potential resource supply options to evaluate transmission system impacts for various resource supply options to meet future native load requirements. All resource supply options were analyzed for a start date of 2019.

The analysis can be viewed on the NCTPC Web site at www.nctpc.org/nctpc under the Reference Documents section.

The major transmission projects identified in the 2009 plan report are expected to be implemented over the next 10-year planning period by the transmission owners to preserve system reliability and improve economic transfers. Major projects are defined as those requiring transmission investments in excess of \$10 million. These planned projects are subject to change based on evolving system conditions. The plan is updated annually.

“The 2009 NCTPC Plan demonstrates the value of ongoing collaboration between the state’s electric transmission owners and other electric suppliers in North Carolina,” said Ed Finley, chairman of the North Carolina Utilities Commission. “This work helps rate payers save money and ensures reliable electric service to our North Carolina communities,” noted Finley.

The NCTPC was established to provide the participants and other stakeholders an opportunity to participate in the electric transmission planning process for North Carolina, and to develop a single coordinated transmission plan for North Carolina electric utilities that includes reliability and enhanced transmission access considerations. The group’s priority is to appropriately balance costs, benefits and risks associated with the use of transmission and generation resources.

“This study demonstrates that the NCTPC process has the flexibility to modify transmission plans based on changing conditions such as reduced load growth while ensuring reliable and cost-effective delivery of power to the benefit of all North Carolina consumers,” said David Beam, NCTPC Oversight/Steering Committee (OSC) Chair.

The NCTPC process includes active participation of other market participants and other stakeholders through a Transmission Advisory Group (TAG), which is open to all interested parties. Stakeholders interested in joining the TAG or receiving future information related to the NCTPC process, can sign up to become a TAG participant and get on the TAG distribution list at the NCTPC website at www.nctpc.org/nctpc.

The NCTPC process includes the use of an Independent Third Party (ITP) consultant to act as a facilitator for the development and conduct of the NCTPC process. This role includes Chairing the TAG and soliciting input from the other stakeholders through the open TAG meetings. The ITP consultant for the NCTPC process is Accenture LLP, www.accenture.com.

If you have any comments or questions on the NCTPC process or specifically on the 2008-2018 Collaborative Transmission Plan Study Report, please contact David Beam, NCTPC OSC chair (via email david.beam@ncemcs.com or phone 919-875-3032).

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