

North Carolina Transmission Planning Collaborative

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Collaborative Transmission Plan identifies nine major reliability projects

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Participants in the North Carolina Transmission Planning Collaborative (“NCTPC”) have identified 9 major reliability transmission projects, representing more than \$223 million in investments over the next decade, as part of the 2013-2023 Collaborative Transmission Plan for North Carolina (“2013 Plan”).

The 2012 plan included an estimate of \$318 million for 11 projects. Two of those projects were completed by Duke Energy Progress in December 2012. In-service dates and cost estimates for some projects in the 2013 Plan that are planned or underway have been revised based on updated information.

The NCTPC was formed in 2005 to develop a shared plan for electric transmission system enhancements in the state. Participants include Duke Energy Carolinas (“DEC”), Duke Energy Progress (“DEP”), North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (“NCEMC”) and ElectriCities of North Carolina. Since its inception in 2005, projects totaling \$833 million have been identified in the NCTPC plans, with \$394 million placed into service through 2013, \$107 million currently under construction, \$39 million still in the planning stage, and another \$293 million being deferred outside the planning horizon or cancelled as a result of changing system requirements.

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.

The scope of the 2013 NCTPC Study included a base reliability analysis for transmission needs to meet load growth between 2013 and 2023 as well as an analysis of various system conditions under hypothetical resource supply option scenarios.

The resource supply options for the 2013 NCTPC Study consisted of an examination of the impacts of 16 different hypothetical transfers into and out of the DEC and DEP systems under expected 2023 summer peak conditions. Analysis of the transfer scenarios did not require any additional transmission projects for DEP beyond those in the 2013 Plan. However, one major project was identified for DEC which consisted of, for scenarios involving large imports to DEC from SCE&G or SPCSA, the reconductoring of the DEC portion of the existing 115 kV tie lines between DEC and South Carolina Electric & Gas. The estimated cost for this potential upgrade is \$16 M.

The 2013 Plan can be viewed on the NCTPC website under the Reference Documents section at <http://www.nctpc.org/nctpc/home.jsp>.

The major transmission projects identified in the 2013 Plan 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 of more than \$10 million. These planned projects are subject to change based on evolving system conditions. The plan is updated annually.

“The 2013 NCTPC Plan illustrates the value of collaboration between North Carolina’s electric transmission owners and other electric suppliers,” said Ed Finley, chairman of the North Carolina Utilities Commission. “This work keeps North Carolina well-positioned for the future by ensuring reliable delivery of power to communities across the state and helping rate payers save money.”

“The NCTPC provides a valuable function by allowing stakeholders to better understand the electric transmission planning process for North Carolina,” said Marty Berland of Electricities of NC, Chairman of the NCTPC Oversight/Steering Committee (OSC). “By offering greater transparency and opportunity to provide input to the process, entities that rely on the transmission system can collaborate to develop plans for future enhancements in a manner that optimizes cost effectiveness and reliability.”

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 <http://www.nctpc.org/nctpc/home.jsp>.

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 Richard Wodyka, rawodyka@aol.com.

If you have any comments or questions on the NCTPC process or specifically on the 2013-2023 Collaborative Transmission Plan Study Report, please contact Marty Berland, NCTPC OSC chair (via email: mberland@electricities.org or phone 919-760-6319).

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