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# Path Task Force Recommendations and Proposals to JGC

April 7, 2023

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# Today's Discussion

- Recap timeline

- Review PTF obligations under its charter

- Review PTF recommendations and suggested courses of action

- Entertain proposals for JGC approval

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# Update and Timeline

| Date | Milestone | Status |
|------|-----------|--------|
| Thursday, February 02, 2023 | Post draft document to wecc.org—PTF | ☑ |
| Friday, February 03, 2023 | Share draft document with JGC | ☑ |
| Friday, February 10, 2023 | Open comment period | ☑ |
| Thursday, February 16, 2023 | PTF town hall: Path Task Force report—10:00 a.m. | ☑ |
| Friday, March 10, 2023 | Comment period closes | ☑ |
| Friday, March 17, 2023 | Share/post summary of comments | ☑ |
| Monday, March 27, 2023 | Final report posted for approval and share comment responses | ☑ |
| Friday, April 07, 2023 | Final report approved at JGC meeting | |

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# PTF Charter

**WECC**

Electric Reliability and Security for the West

**Path Task Force**

**Charter**

## Establishment and Authority

The Path Task Force (PTF) was established by the Joint Guidance Committee (JGC). The PTF will disband with approval of the recommendations. The task force will complete its work and terminate no later than December 31, 2021.

## Purpose and Responsibilities

The purpose of the PTF is to determine the relevance and role of Total Transfer Capability (TTC), WECC Path Ratings, and the "Project Coordination, Path Rating and Progress Report Processes" in the operations and planning horizon, and to identify and explain the changes in regulatory, markets and business practices, as well as changes in operations and planning that support conclusions and recommendations.

# PTF Charter

The PTF will:

1. Review and build on prior work including the work of the Path Operator Task Force (POTF), Path Operator Implementation Task Force (POITF), Path Ratings Process Task Force (PRPTF), and the Reliability Coordinator (RC) System Operating Limit (SOL) methodologies;

2. Clarify and document the role of paths, path total transfer capabilities (TTCs), and WECC Path Ratings in the operations horizon;

3. Examine the relevance and determine the role of WECC Path Ratings and the "Project Coordination, Path Rating, and Progress Report Processes" in the planning horizon;

4. Inventory WECC records for any active ATC, TTC or similar guides issued by WECC for updating or retirement;

5. Review and consider the impacts of recommendations on other processes and future interconnection reliability;

6. Report findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the JGC; and

7. Perform other tasks as assigned by JGC.

# Recommendation #1

- Recommendation:
  - The PTF recommends abandoning the term "Path Operator" in discourse and written documents and replacing it with NERC functional entity terms such as TOP, BA, and RC, and appropriate terms from the NERC and NAESB glossaries. The terms "Path Operator" or "Path Manager" could exist in individual company contracts. The PTF is not recommending changing these contracts; however, the PTF recommends that the term not be used in any future contracts to avoid confusion, if practicable.

- Suggested course of action:
  - WECC staff communicate this information to appropriate groups inside and outside of WECC.

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# Recommendation #2

- ## Recommendation:

  - The PTF clarifies that a WECC Path Rating is not needed to serve as a maximum TTC value for the operations horizon; however, entities may continue this practice if they choose. A TOP is not required to limit its maximum TTC by the WECC Path Rating value shown in the WECC Path Rating Catalog, provided the TOP has studies demonstrating no SOL exceedance (thermal, voltage, or stability) occurs at the higher TTC value.

- ## Suggested course of action:

  - WECC staff communicate this information to appropriate groups inside and outside of WECC.

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# Recommendation #3

- Recommendation:

  - The PTF recommends the initiation of a SAR to remove references to "Major WECC Paths" in the NERC Reliability Standards and the NERC Glossary. The PTF determined that there is no clear reliability basis for their applicability in the body of Reliability Standards and the NERC Glossary.

- Suggested course of action:

  - WECC Standards Development group develop a NERC SAR and take on this recommendation.

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# Recommendation #4

- ▪ Recommendation:

  - The PTF recommends that the WECC Path Rating Process be reviewed and updated, replaced, or supplemented with a new process to ensure that entities who no longer use paths (or historical "path" concepts) or intend to move away from using paths in the planning horizon have a WECC process that gives them similar benefits. This recommendation should be addressed in the next two years to allow enough time to systematically address approaches that are not path-centric.

- ▪ Suggested course of action:

  - WECC Studies Subcommittee take on this recommendation.

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# Recommendation #5

- Recommendation:

  - Open and transparent coordination of Transfer Capabilities for the planning horizon in the Western Interconnection is primarily accomplished through participation in the WECC Path Rating Process. If this process is ever updated, replaced, or supplemented, any future process(es) should help coordinate Transfer Capabilities across the Western Interconnection and should maintain the open and transparent nature of the WECC Path Rating Process.

- Suggested course of action:

  - WECC Studies Subcommittee take on this recommendation as part of Recommendation #4.

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# Proposals

- Propose to :

  - Implement the recommendations and suggested courses of action

  - Approve the PTF report

  - Disband the PTF

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