

## Background

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In June 2023, Congress passed the [Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023](#), which included a provision for NERC to perform a study “*in consultation with each Regional Entity and each transmitting utility ... to perform an Inter-regional Transfer Capability Study*” (ITCS), to be delivered to FERC by December 2, 2024, with a public comment period to follow. After the end of FERC public comment period, FERC will have one year to submit a report on its conclusions to Congress including any recommendations for statutory changes. The legislation identifies three study elements:

1. Current total transfer capability between each pair of neighboring transmission planning regions;
2. A recommendation of prudent additions to the total transfer capability between each pair of neighboring transmission planning regions that would demonstrably strengthen reliability within and among such neighboring transmission planning regions; and
3. Recommendations to meet and maintain total transfer capability together with such recommended prudent additions to total transfer capability between each pair of neighboring transmission planning regions.

Since that time, NERC has worked closely with the Regional Entities, stakeholders, and consultants to scope the project, collect necessary data and information, perform the analysis, and assess the results. These results have been developed and shared with stakeholders through a series of reports addressing each element of the study (these reports can be found on the NERC ITCS [webpage](#)).

For this technical session, Saad Malik, NERC manager of Transmission Assessments, and Vic Howell, WECC director of Reliability Modeling and Assessments, will discuss the ITCS and address questions such as:

- How is this assessment different from other transmission planning studies being performed in the West?
- What Western assumptions and parameters were used in the ITCS?
- What are the key takeaways from the ITCS that will be useful to transmission planners? To state and federal regulators?
- How should the ITCS findings and recommendations be interpreted and used?
- What is next for the ITCS?
- What did we learn from the process that we will want to carry forward as part of our reliability assessment work?