



Data Preparation Manual Change Request

System Review Subcommittee (SRS)
Guidance for Submission of Data

Change Summary

Update the Data Preparation Manual (DPM) to include Recommendations from SRS on when to include transmission and generation projects

Schedule

Incorporate language into DPM: 2027 DPM

Adherence to revised DPM language: 2027 DPM

Detailed Description

Load forecasts are increasing in recent years alongside generation plans. WECC base cases often reflect expected increases in loads, but do not always include generation as well. Increasing load amounts is relatively easy compared with accurately forecasting which generation and transmission will actually come online and when it will be in service. Load, Generation, and Loss have to balance though, otherwise the cases won't solve.

In the last few years base cases have begun running short on generation. In particular, a Heavy Winter case needed Canada to redispatch their Hydro to give the Northwest some of the power needed so that the Northwest could send power to California. In other cases, Wind has been pushed to higher than typical capacity factors to help balance out the load. Retired units are sometimes left in service in the cases as placeholders as future unit details are uncertain. Thermal retirements continue to increase, and while plans are present in IRPs and other places to add generation and transmission, there is not a clear-cut line on when to include the planned equipment. The proposed updates below show a recommended approach to when to include projects in the base cases.

Benefits

Base cases will solve.

Unrealistic dispatches or retired units won't be needed in the cases

Stakeholders will be able to use the DPM as a reference when discussing why certain units are included and why they were placed where they were

Costs

Case creation and reviews will need to take into account the possibility that generation and transmission added last year (or last case) will need to be removed or updated more frequently

Case documentation may need to be updated to make it clear which equipment was added to help meet load.

Study results discussions will need to consider whether the planned equipment impacted results

Alternatives

Business as usual. Eventually some cases may not solve, or may use unrealistic dispatches that provide answers that are not helpful.

Proposed Edits

Update to Data Requirements section (page 5 in 2026 DPM):

In consideration of including Planned Facilities in submitted data, follow these guidelines:

The facilities:

- Should be in-service on the scheduled base case posting date; **or**
- Should be in-service in the month and year represented in the case. **Any facilities that meet one or more of the following should be considered for inclusion:**
 - Built and awaiting Commissioning
 - Under construction with Commissioning expected before the month and year of the case
 - Notice to proceed given with an in-service date before the month and year of the case
 - Included in most recent WECC L&R submission
 - Has regulatory approval
- **A signed agreement (e.g. Power Purchase Agreement, Interconnection Agreement, Transmission Service Agreement) Must support proposed generation facilities that are modeled in-service in the case or are necessary to meet load growth estimates**

All data must be the best available data. Entities are encouraged to list Planned Facilities in the Significant Changes section of the Associated Materials.

Examples

Load growth for a 10 year case exceeds generation headroom. No power is available from another Area. Two projects are selected based on information from the resource planner that are the most likely to be built within the correct time frame and that have useful location information. Generic Data is acceptable for network topology and generator data, including dynamics data.