

# Request for Information, Expressions of Interest and Statement of Qualifications

## WestConnect Regional Planning Process

PMC Approved: December 14, 2022

***Responses Due: February 03, 2023***

# Request for Information, Expressions of Interest and Statement of Qualifications

## WestConnect Regional Planning Process

### **1.0 Introduction**

The signatories to the WestConnect Planning Participation Agreement working with a wide range of stakeholders (WestConnect Regional Planning Parties), are currently operating a FERC approved Order 1000 regional planning process (WestConnect Regional Planning). WestConnect Regional Planning is now in the middle of its fourth full biennial planning cycle and plans to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) later in 2023 to seek parties interested in being considered for selection as WestConnect's Regional Planning Consultant, which would perform the technical study work and reporting activities required as part of WestConnect Regional Planning. Prior to the release of this RFP the WestConnect Regional Planning Parties desire to gather information, expressions of interest and statements of qualifications from industry experts who may see opportunities for improvement of the existing Regional Planning process. In addition, in view of general activities in the Western Interconnection and at FERC favoring longer term planning activities in addition to the ten-year out horizon for its Order 1000 planning process, the WestConnect Regional Planning Parties are seeking information, expressions of interest and statements of qualifications from industry experts for the development of a long-term planning process to mesh with existing WestConnect Regional Planning activities.

WestConnect Regional Planning is currently a biennial process utilizing power flow and production cost models to identify regional needs, select

projects to meet those needs and allocate costs as appropriate under the governing tariffs. Additional information about WestConnect Regional Planning<sup>1</sup> and its regulatory underpinnings<sup>2</sup> can be found on the WestConnect website. Documentation for the current and previous planning cycles is also available through these links to the website. A general overview of the activities undertaken during the regional planning cycle is included as Attachment 1 to this Request for Information, Expressions of Interest and Statement of Qualifications (Request).

WestConnect Regional Planning Parties are seeking comments for enhancing the current process as it is currently defined in WestConnect member FERC approved tariffs. WestConnect Regional Planning Parties are further interested in understanding the technical feasibility and timing considerations associated with implementing a long-term transmission planning process (i.e., with a planning horizon of 20 or more years) that can operate in conjunction with the existing WestConnect Regional Planning process. The existing Order 1000 planning process is described in detail in the documentation that can be found on the website via the links in previous footnotes.

WestConnect Regional Planning Parties are also interested in gathering expressions of interest to perform its existing Regional Planning activities as well as possible long-term planning activities, and a statement of qualifications from those Responders to this Request that indicate such an interest.

## **2.0 Information Being Requested**

The objectives of issuing this Request are to solicit industry experts for proposed enhancements or improvements to the existing WestConnect

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<sup>1</sup> [http://regplanning.westconnect.com/regional\\_planning.htm](http://regplanning.westconnect.com/regional_planning.htm)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.westconnect.com/planning\\_order\\_1000\\_rc\\_filing.php-](http://www.westconnect.com/planning_order_1000_rc_filing.php-)

Regional Planning process, and to understand the range of considerations for implementing a long-term planning process alongside the existing WestConnect Regional Planning process, including the potential scope of changes needed to existing processes in order to incorporate long-term planning activities.

## **2.1 Existing Regional Planning Process Questions**

- Are there enhancements or improvements to the existing Regional Planning process that you would suggest and would fit within the scope and definition of the currently FERC-approved WestConnect member tariffs for regional planning?
- What power flow and/or production cost modeling tools would you recommend for conducting regional reliability and economic assessments and why?

## **2.2 Long-Term Planning Questions**

- Is there an optimum time horizon for long-term planning? If so, what time horizon is recommended?
- What is the recommended periodicity for developing long-term models?
- Should a distinction be made between a base long-term planning model and alternative scenarios, and if so, how should the parameters for each be developed?
- How many scenarios should WestConnect consider as part of its long-term planning?
- Can databases for long-term planning be created within the same timeframe as, and in conjunction with, existing WestConnect Regional Planning model development activities?

- Are there specific synergies that can be created and leveraged between WestConnect’s existing power flow and production cost modeling efforts and long-term planning?
- What data will WestConnect transmission providers be required to produce over and above the data they provide for power flow and production cost models based on a 10-year out planning horizon?
- Is there any data needed for long-term planning that WestConnect should consider developing at the regional level for application in the long-term planning models?
- What tools would be recommended to be utilized to conduct long-term planning studies, including any tools that might be required to develop assumptions needed to populate long-term planning models?

## **2.3 Indications of Interest and Qualifications**

In addition, Responders should indicate whether they are interested in providing the services required to complete the existing Regional Planning process as well as the contemplated long-term planning activities and, if so interested, the qualifications of the firm and individuals who would be the primary service providers should be provided.

## **3.0 Instructions for Responding to this Request**

All responses should address

- questions posed in Section 2.1 and 2.2 above, however, a response to every question is not required; and
- expressions of interest in performing regional planning services, including potential long-term planning services for the WestConnect Transmission Parties and the specific function or functions covered by that interest; and

- statements of qualifications for the entity and primary service providers for any stated interest in performing functions.

### **3.1 Supporting Documentation/Information**

Any supporting documentation that describes suggested process modifications or innovations or is evidence of qualification to provide services should be included with the response.

### **3.2 Proposal Format and Organization**

Each complete Response should contain:

1. Cover letter; and
2. Information on long-term planning questions, suggested planning process enhancements or modifications; and
3. Indications of interest in performing a function or functions; and
4. If interest in performing functions is indicated, statements of qualifications for the entity and persons to provide services in support of those functions.

### **3.3 Response Contact**

Companies responding to this Request should designate a single contact within that company for receipt of all subsequent information regarding this Request.

### **3.4 No Reimbursement**

Responders will not be reimbursed for any cost incurred in conjunction with developing a response.

### **3.5 Response Deadline**

The WestConnect Regional Planning Parties must receive the Responder's response, in its entirety, at the address identified below. Responses must be received on or before the February 3, 2023 deadline. Responders should send one electronic copy in PowerPoint, Adobe pdf or MS Word files to [heidi@pacenergies.com](mailto:heidi@pacenergies.com). One confirming copy of all documents should also be sent to:

Heidi Pacini, WestConnect Project Manager  
3925 Knox Ave  
Rosamond, CA 93560  
(661) 386-0118  
[heidi@pacenergies.com](mailto:heidi@pacenergies.com)

### **4.0 Response Review Process and Schedule**

The WestConnect Regional Planning Parties are issuing this Request for the purpose of surveying the industry to obtain information that can be used to improve the existing Regional Planning process, as well as to provide guidance in WestConnect's consideration of long-term planning activities and how they might be best incorporated into its existing planning activities, and to assess the interests and qualifications of potential service providers.

To fully understand the information contained within a response to this Request, WestConnect Transmission Parties may seek further clarification on that response. This clarification may be requested in the form of brief verbal communication by telephone; written communication; electronic communications; or a presentation of the response to a meeting of the participants.

## **4.1 Responder Questions to WestConnect**

Responders may ask questions regarding this Request. These questions must be submitted in writing to Heidi Pacini at the address above (either by U.S. mail or electronically) according to the schedule below. The questions and responses will be shared with all interested Responders via a posting on the WestConnect website at WestConnect.com, without disclosing the identity of the Responder asking the question.

## **4.2 Important Dates**

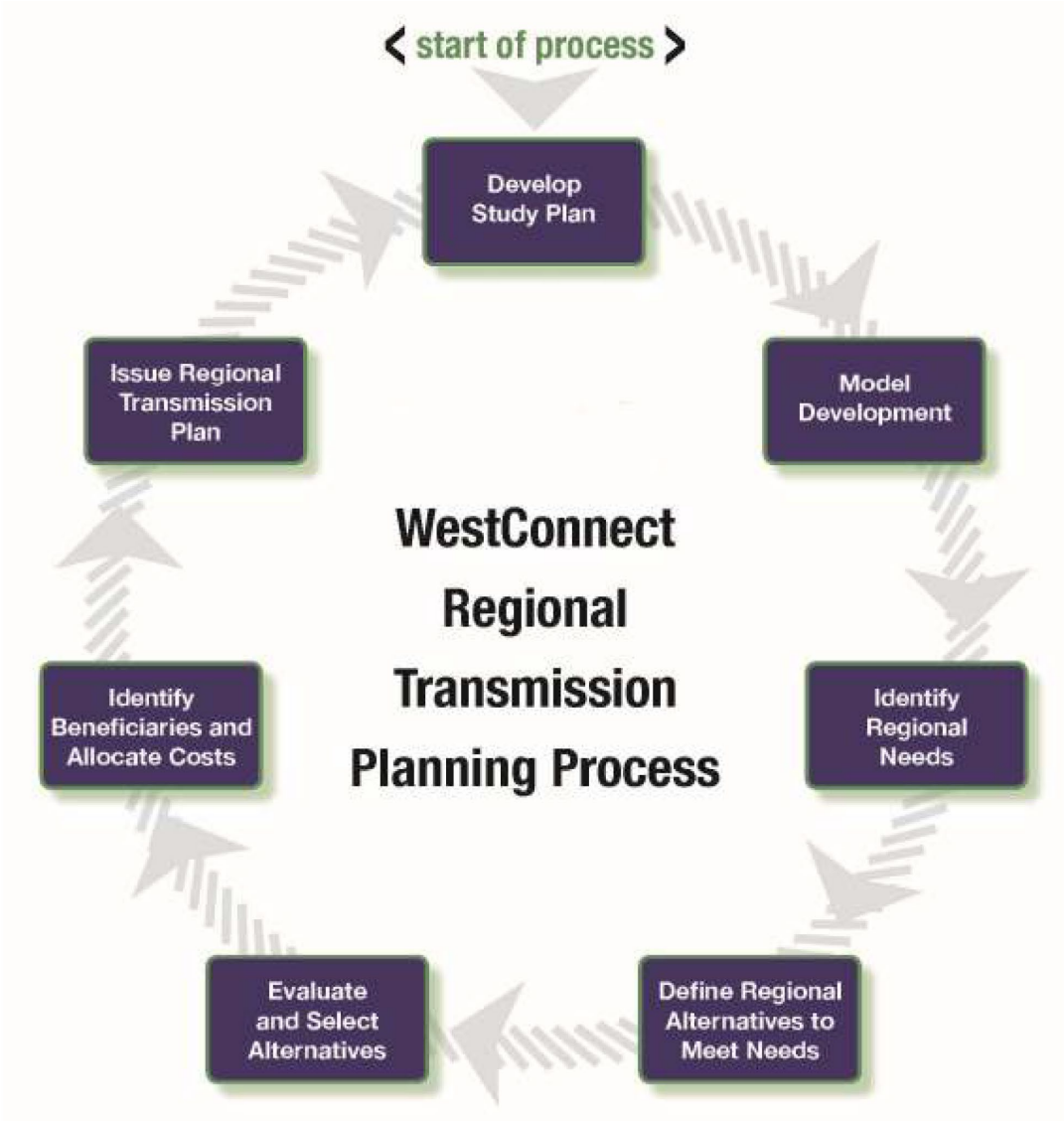
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
January 3, 2023	Request issued
January 17, 2023	Deadline for questions
February 3, 2023	Response deadline

## **5.0 No Contractual Obligation**

The WestConnect Regional Planning Parties reserve the right to accept, reject, or use without obligation or compensation any information submitted in response to this Request. Request materials will not be returned to Respondents. This Request is for planning and information purposes only and is NOT to be construed as a commitment by implication or otherwise to issue a subsequent RFP, to enter into a contractual agreement, nor compensate Respondents for any information provided.



# Attachment 1: WestConnect Regional Planning Process Diagram



## Attachment 2: WestConnect Regional Planning Process Timeline

