

WestConnect Regional Planning: Draft Planning Process for Order 1920

October 3, 2025

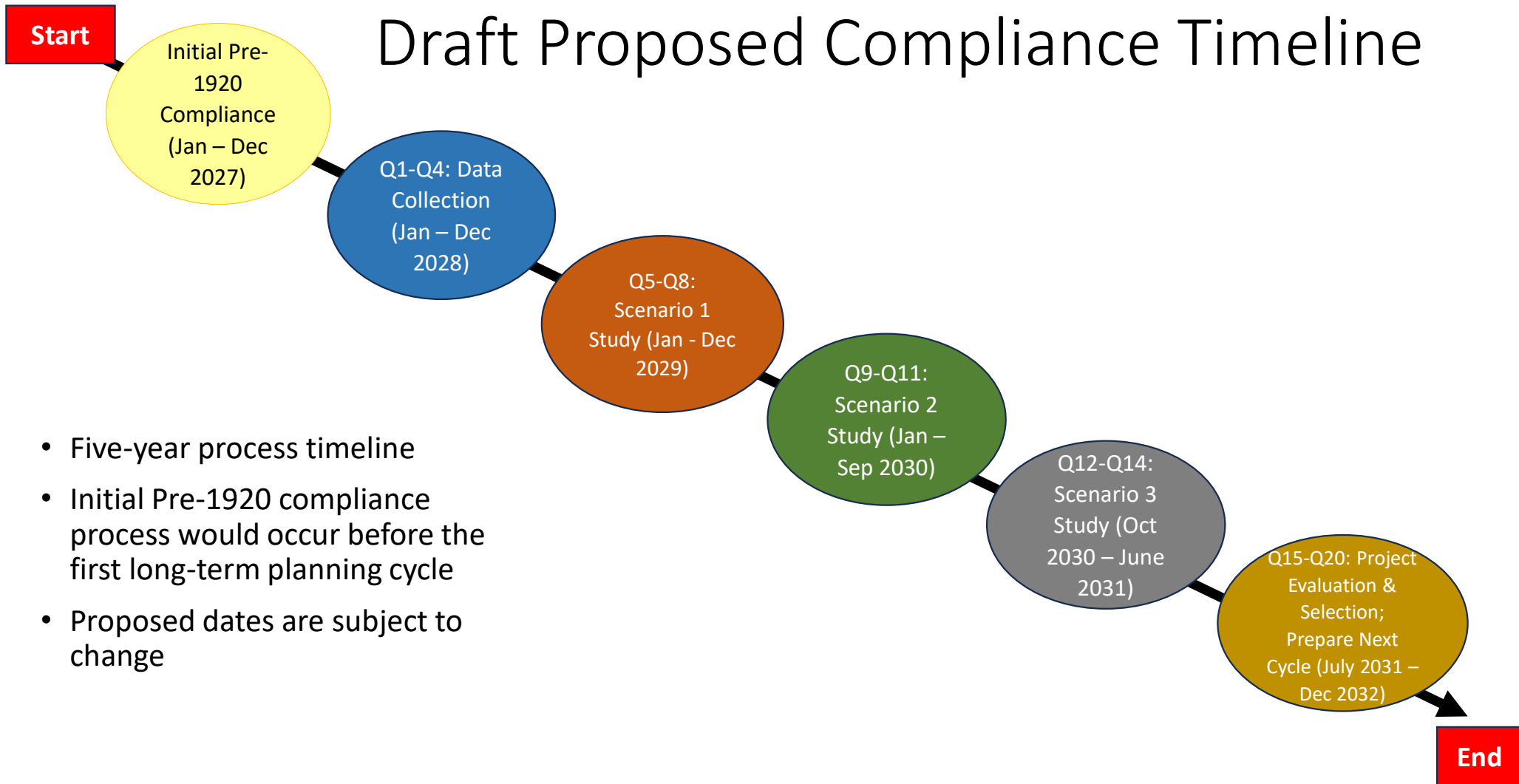
Contact Information

- Relevant State Entities may communicate with the Enrolled Transmission Owners (ETOs) in the WestConnect planning region by sending any questions or comments to Order1920@westconnect.com.
 - This is available throughout the Order 1920 compliance process and emails will be distributed to key contacts at each ETO.

Overview of the WestConnect ETOs' Draft Technical Planning Process for Order No. 1920



Draft Proposed Compliance Timeline



Data Collection (Part 1)

- Year One, Quarters One through Four:
 - The Transmission Providers will begin Long-Term planning activities, including detailing data inputs, factors for planning, and conducting processes for base case and scenario development.
 - The Transmission Providers will collect data inputs to develop the base case necessary for Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning.
 - Data collection and base case development efforts may begin prior to the first year and can occur in Year Five of the previous cycle to prepare for the subsequent cycle.

Data Collection (Part 2)

- Year One, Quarters One through Four:
 - Data Inputs:
 - The most recent WECC 20-year case as the foundation for the base case, adjusting it as necessary to reflect expected future conditions over a 20-year horizon.
 - Adjustments to the WECC case should consider recent transmission planning study results, local planning updates, interconnection agreements, load forecasts, and planned facilities.
 - Additional inputs include, but are not limited to, laws and regulations affecting resources, trends in costs and technologies, resource retirements, and policy goals.
 - The Transmission Providers must communicate with other ETOs to verify, update, or correct data inputs as necessary.

Data Collection (Part 3)

- Year One, Quarters One through Four:
 - Consultation:
 - During Quarters One and Two, the Transmission Providers will consult with Relevant State Entities to account for specific state policies and propose additional analyses or scenarios.
 - In Quarter Three, the Transmission Providers will provide opportunity for stakeholder comments.
 - Stakeholders can propose factors for consideration and input on probable future outcomes.
 - Base Case Development:
 - After input from Relevant State Entities and stakeholders, the Transmission Providers will develop the base case for planning over the remainder of Year One.
 - This base case will only be modified if material changes arise.

Scenario 1 Study (Part 1)

- Year Two, Quarter One:
 - The Transmission Providers shall:
 - Define at least three planning scenarios using NERC Reliability Standard TPL-001 contingencies.
 - Prioritize scenarios by difficulty, studying the most difficult first.
 - Define and scope sensitivities for each scenario.
 - Post the approach on the WestConnect website.
 - The Transmission Providers will conduct scoping for the first scenario.

Scenario 1 Study (Part 2)

- Year Two, Quarter Two:
 - The Transmission Providers shall complete data collection for new, updated, or corrected information for the first planning scenario.
- Year Two, Quarters Three and Four:
 - The Transmission Providers shall study the first scenario by applying it to the base case with sensitivities.
 - The scenario study results will be posted at the end of Year Two.

Scenario 2 Study

- Year Three, Quarter One:
 - The Transmission Providers shall conduct scoping for the second planning scenario.
- Year Three, Quarters Two and Three:
 - The Transmission Providers shall complete data collection for new, updated, or corrected information.
 - The Transmission Providers shall study the second scenario and apply identified sensitivities.
 - The scenario study results will be posted at the end of Quarter Three.

Scenario 3 Study

- Year Three, Quarter Four:
 - The Transmission Providers shall conduct scoping for the third planning scenario.
- Year Four, Quarters One and Two:
 - The Transmission Providers shall complete data collection for new, updated, or corrected information.
 - The Transmission Providers shall study the third planning scenario and apply identified sensitivities.
 - The Transmission Providers shall complete and post the results of studies of additional scenarios from consultations with Relevant State Entities.
 - The Transmission Providers shall update the In-Kind Replacement Estimate before the end of Quarter Two.

Needs Identification and Project Solicitation (Part 1)

- Year Four, Quarter Three:
 - The Transmission Providers shall determine Long-Term Transmission Needs (if any).
 - To the extent Long-Term Transmission Needs are identified, Transmission Providers shall:
 - perform Right-Sizing Assessment for In-Kind Transmission Facilities; and
 - identify proposed facilities to address Long-Term Transmission Needs.
- The identification of any such proposed Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility is not binding on the Transmission Providers.

Needs Identification and Project Solicitation (Part 2)

- Year Four, Quarter Four:
 - The Transmission Providers shall post determination of needs and proposed facilities. If needs are identified:
 - Solicit proposals from Transmission Developers and stakeholders.
 - Targeted solicitation for Right-Sized Replacement Facilities to existing facility owner.
 - Encourage advanced technologies:
 - Dynamic line ratings
 - Advanced power flow control devices
 - Advanced conductors
 - Transmission switching
 - Open solicitation for 60 days.

Needs Identification and Project Solicitation (Part 3)

- A developer's proposal must include:
 - Contact information
 - Explanation of project efficiency or cost-effectiveness
 - Detailed project description:
 - Scope, interconnection points, voltage, circuit configuration, impedance, mileage
 - Description of any special facilities required
 - Diagram showing geographical location and preferred route
 - General description of permitting challenges
 - Estimated project cost and description of basis for that cost
 - Any independent study work of or relevant to the project

Needs Identification and Project Solicitation (Part 4)

- A developer's proposal must include: (cont'd)
 - Any WECC study work of or relevant to the project
 - Status within the WECC path rating process
 - The project in-service date
 - Change files to add the project to a standard system power flow model
 - Description of plan for post-construction maintenance and operation of the proposed line
 - A \$100,000 deposit for relevant study work
 - Comparison Risk Score from the WECC Environmental Data Task Force (if available)
 - A list of necessary associated facilities

Needs Identification and Project Solicitation (Part 5)

- A developer's proposal must include: (cont'd)
 - Impacts on other planning regions from the proposed transmission facility.
- To the extent the developer proposes to also develop the project, the proposal must include:
 - Overview of the developer's ability to finance, own, and manage a transmission project.
 - Summary of the developer's experience and performance in transmission projects.
 - Explanation of any prior regulatory violations related to transmission facilities.
 - Discussion of the developer's role in the planning process.
 - Experience in ongoing scheduling, operating, and maintenance activities.

Needs Identification and Project Solicitation (Part 6)

- A developer's proposal to be selected as the developer must include:
(cont'd)
 - Existing procedures for siting, permitting, and routing transmission projects, including land acquisition.
 - Demonstrate creditworthiness and capital resources for financing projects.
 - Prove internal and contractor safety programs and performance.
 - Ability to manage control center operations and obtain path ratings.
 - Have or plan to develop a transmission maintenance program.
 - Ability to comply with utility practices, standards, and regulations.
 - Other relevant project development experience demonstrating expertise.

Project Evaluation & Selection (Part 1)

- Year Five, Quarter One:
 - The Transmission Providers will identify the benefits and beneficiaries of each proposed Long-Term Regional Transmission Facility and quantify the benefits in dollars over a 20-year period.
 - Benefits from all proposed projects will be quantified using FERC's specified seven benefits:
 1. Avoided or deferred reliability transmission facilities and aging infrastructure replacement.
 2. Reduced loss of load probability or reduced planning reserve margin.
 3. Production cost savings.
 4. Reduced congestion due to transmission outages.
 5. Mitigation of extreme weather events and unexpected system conditions.
 6. Capacity cost benefits from reduced peak energy losses.
 7. Reduced transmission energy losses.

Project Evaluation & Selection (Part 2)

- Following benefits quantification, the Transmission Providers will check for eligibility for cost allocation:
 - Benefits-to-cost threshold ratio equal to or greater than 1.25.
 - Project transmission lines must be 200 kV or greater and a minimum of 50 miles in length.
 - All project transmission equipment must functionally support or operate at an operating voltage of 200 kV or greater.
 - Project transformers must have a low-side operating voltage of 200 kV or greater.
 - The project physically interconnects the transmission systems of two or more ETOs in WestConnect.
 - A minimum of two ETOs in WestConnect must benefit from the project.

Project Evaluation & Selection (Part 3)

- Year Five, Quarters Two through Four:
 - The Transmission Providers will solicit project developers for unsponsored projects (e.g., stakeholder-proposed projects) selected for cost allocation through a posting on the WestConnect website for 30 days.
 - The Transmission Providers will evaluate submissions within 60 days post-solicitation and select a developer or conclude no selection.
 - Decision and explanation will be posted on the WestConnect website.
 - Selected developers must submit a project development schedule.
 - The Transmission Providers will begin preparations for the next planning cycle, including conducting Year One actions for the upcoming cycle if needed.