

BCHA-PNW Intertie TTC Coordination and Posting

In our March 29, 1999 posting entitled “Request for Customer Input on Scheduling and Posting of the BCHA-PNW Intertie”, BC Hydro (BCHA), the Bonneville Power Administration Transmission Business Line (BPAT), and Puget Sound Energy (PSEI) requested feedback from our customers regarding when they need notification of their contract shares, advisement of curtailments, and overall BCHA-PNW Intertie path Total Transfer Capability (TTC) and Available Transfer Capability (ATC). This was done in order to improve coordination and to align our process timelines. BCHA, BPAT, and PSEI have reviewed the feedback we received in light of the staffing and data constraints we also face.

Our March 29 posting described in detail the coordination process used by BCHA, BPAT, and PSEI to manage TTC and curtailments over the BCHA-PNW Intertie. BCHA, BPAT, and PSEI identified some minor improvements and incorporated these into essentially the same coordination process. A description of this process is repeated here for reference.

BPAT attempts to assess conditions south of the BC-US border and determine the path transfer capability based on those conditions by midday on the day before preschedule. BPAT provides these transfer capabilities to BCHA and PSEI at this time. BPAT staff then notifies customers of any necessary curtailments, as well as update BPAT’s OASIS offerings and hourly known constraints postings, by around 2:00 PM the day before preschedule. BPAT does no further assessment for that preschedule day after this time.

BCHA runs a series of studies every business day to assess the path transfer capability based on conditions north of the BC-US border.. These studies are run every business day and the results updated on a rolling 7 days basis. BCHA receives updated input data for the studies every business day between 3:00 and 3:30 PM. BCHA cannot get accurate estimates of these parameters prior to 3:00 PM the day before preschedule.. Hence, BCHA’s studies for any given day are finalized between 4:00 and 4:30 PM on the day before the preschedule day. BPAT and PSEI receive a copy of these results from BCHA each business day around 4:30 PM. BCHA updates its OASIS postings for the preschedule day at around 6:00 PM to reflect the lower of its results and BPAT’s results. BCHA also provides its customers an estimate of any curtailments at this time.

BCHA and BPAT consider the lowest transfer capability from the two sets of studies to set the path capacity. Ideally, the comparison of these two studies and final notification of customers would be done after 4:30 on the day before preschedule. A final check must also be made by BCHA and BPAT before 8:00 AM on preschedule day in case a major line outage or other unforeseen event occurs during the night that would have a major impact on transfer capability. However, due to staffing limitations, BPAT is not currently able to do this coordination function in both the late afternoon after 4:30 PM and in the early morning before 8:00 AM. As a result, the final comparison of the BCHA and BPAT studies from the day before to determine the most restrictive transfer limit is

done the morning of preschedule when the final check for unforeseen events is also made. BCHA provides final notification of the path capacity to their customers at or after this time. BPAT contacts their customers at this time only if there have been major changes (such as due to line outages) in the path capacities from the values BPAT provided at 2:00 PM the day before. BPAT also provides a final confirmation to PSEI of their Intertie share by 8:00 AM on the morning of preschedule.

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