***Aggregate Study FAQs***

**Q: What is the purpose of the Aggregate Transmission Service Study Process (ATSS)?**

A: Its principal objective is to identify system problems and potential modifications necessary to facilitate these transfers while maintaining or improving system reliability, as well as summarizing the operating limits and determination of the financial characteristics associated with facility upgrades.

The Aggregate Transmission Service Study (ATSS) provides results pursuant to Attachment Z1 of the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) for long-term transmission service requests, including original requests for new or changed Designated Resources, requests for new point-to-point transmission service, long-term redirects of point-to-point service, Delivery Point Transfers, and most other types of long-term requests for existing Transmission Customers (TC).

**Q: What other study process can be used to obtain Transmission Service?**

A: If all the following criteria below are applicable, then the Expedited Designation process can be used. Otherwise, ATSS would apply.

* The source has Network Resource Deliverability through the NRIS+ process,
* The source is to be in the same Deliverability Area as some or all of the customer’s network load,
* The capacity of the designation request cannot exceed the threshold described below:
	+ For the first year the resource is planned to be designated, SPP will compute the ratio of the Eligible Customer’s system peak responsibility in the Deliverability Area where the resource is located to the Eligible Customer’s system peak responsibility located in all Deliverability Areas in SPP.
	+ The capacity of the designation request cannot exceed the generator’s Network Resource Deliverability multiplied by this ratio.

For more information, please refer to the “FAQ Expedited Designation Process for NRIS+” document.

**Q: What happens if my Transmission Service Request is short term (one year or less in duration)?**

A: For short-term service (less than one year), if the capacity is available in the system, the TSR would be accepted in OASIS and the service could be granted. If the capacity is not there, the TSR would be refused, and the service would not be granted. This is handled by SPP Interchange and Scheduling Department.

**Q: Do I need to be an SPP Transmission Customer to be granted Long Term Transmission Service?**

A: Yes, a prerequisite for participating in the ATSS is to complete the registration process to become an Eligible Transmission Customer (TC). If your company is not currently an SPP eligible TC, the registration process is 45 days to register. SPP Customer Relations staff can assist with the registration process, and it can be started by submitting a Request Management System (RMS ticket).

**Q: If already an eligible TC, are there any additional considerations?**

A: Yes, if the Source/Sink is new, then it must be registered in webRegistry/EIR. This will allow the submission of a TSR on SPP’s OASIS. Once the Source/Sink is registered, please send an email to TS@spp.org indicating the new Source/Sink needs to be added in OASIS. The SPP Transmission Services department will work with the Model Coordination and Congestion Hedging departments to ensure this new Source/Sink is mapped to the appropriate Settlement Location. Also, the customer must also request this new Source/Sink be added to the commercial model through Model Coordination’s normal monthly process. This Source/Sink can be added to the commercial model while the ATSS is being performed. Please do not use a generic ‘Source’ for your request. The ‘Source’ must still be registered in webRegistry.

**Q: What needs to be done in OASIS to submit the ATSS service request?**

A: The Eligible Customer must submit a valid request on SPP OASIS. If the OASIS request is not submitted by the close of the open season, the request will be considered withdrawn. It is the Customer’s responsibility to ensure that the OASIS request meets the requirements of SPP’s Business Practices. All requests in the same aggregate study, regardless of queue order, receive cost allocation as a group and have the same priority. To qualify for renewal at the end of the term the request must span at least 5 full years.

**Q: What Source/Sink to use for the request in OASIS?**

A: SPP cannot suggest Source/Sink selections. However, the Source and/or Sink must be valid for the Point of Receipt (POR) and/or Point of Delivery (POD) requested in OASIS. If these are new, then once registered, the SPP Transmission Services department will work with the Model Coordination and Congestion Hedging departments to ensure this new Source/Sink is mapped to the appropriate Settlement Location. Once this is verified, Transmission Services will request the Tariff Admin department to add the Source/Sink in OASIS so that it will appear in the dropdown option for the ADDNITSDNR request.

**Q: What is the timeline to submit requests into the ATSS?**

A: SPP will receive requests for study during an open season. There are two open seasons annually; each will be 6 months in duration. Open seasons will follow this schedule:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **STUDY ID** | **OPEN SEASON** |
| {Year}-AG1 | December 1 – May 31 |
| {Year}-AG2 | June 1 – November 30 |

Also, all requests must have a term of one year or longer and may start no earlier than 6 months after the close of the open season. ATSS result postings can be found here: https://opsportal.spp.org/Studies/Trans

**Q: How do I submit a Long-Term Transmission Service Request?**

A: To request long-term service in the ATSS, a Completed Application must be submitted by midnight on the last day of the open season, regardless of whether it falls on a weekend or holiday and must include the following items:

1. A valid SPP OASIS request

2. A complete and executed Aggregate Facilities Study Agreement (AFSA)

3. A study deposit as indicated in the AFSA

4. A NITS Application (only for NITS requests and Designated Resource requests)

Documents should be submitted by email to TS@spp.org. These documents and ATSS result postings can be found here https://opsportal.spp.org/Studies/Trans.

**Q: What models/cases are used to perform the ATSS?**

A: To perform the ATSS, the ITP Base Reliability Models are used, and the following seasons are used:

Year 0 - Summer Peak

Year 1 - Light Load, Summer & Winter Peak

Year 2 - Light Load, Summer & Winter Peak

Year 5 - Light Load, Summer & Winter Peak

Year 10 - Light Load, Summer & Winter Peak

**Q: What are the study deposit charges for the ATSS?**

A: The minimum deposit amount is $5000 if the requested service amount is less than or equal to 50MW. For greater than 50MW, the deposit is calculated by multiplying the maximum amount of transmission capacity requested by $100 per MW. For more information on additional applicable costs, please refer to Attachment Z1 Section III. B “Study Costs” of the SPP OATT.

***Electric Storage Resource (ESR) FAQs:***

**Storage Facility (Battery) Flowchart**

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* **Governing Language on ESRs & HMSRs – Attachment AE Section 2.17 & 2.18 of the Tariff**

**Q: Is transmission service needed to self-charge a battery as an ESR?**

A: Yes, firm transmission service (Point-to-Point or NITS) from the local utility serving the load is required if ESR decides to self-charge from the grid. The storage facility owner serving the load must be an eligible Transmission Customer (TC) in order to request transmission service out of the Attachment AQ study. If the facility owner is not an SPP eligible TC, then they must complete the on-boarding process (45 days) and then request transmission service through the Aggregate study.

**Q: Is transmission service required if the battery is registered as a Market Storage Resource (MSR)?**

A: If the storage facility only charges or discharges when instructed by the Market, then no transmission service is needed. However, if the storage facility self-charges at any time without being instructed, unreserved usage charges will apply if no firm transmission service is designated.

**Q: If the ESR is used as surplus for an existing designated network resource facility, would additional transmission service be needed?**

A: The total firm transmission service at the POI cannot exceed the GIA executed interconnection limit. Surplus does not increase the interconnection limit at the POI if transmission service is already at the limit. However, if there are available MWs at the POI surplus can be added to the POI up to the interconnection limit. In this instance, transmission service for the surplus amount would be required to go through the Aggregate study.

**Q: When an ESR/MSR wants to self-charge using Point-to-Point transmission service, is a specific resource required to be used?**

A: It is up to the Transmission Customer (TC) to determine the path (source to sink) of the Transmission Service Request (TSR) for the storage facility that wants to self-charge if enough generation capacity is available to serve the requested amount.

***Rate Information FAQs:***

**Price Matrix Page -** <https://opsportal.spp.org/PriceMatrixViewer>

**Q: What potential costs are associated with long-term transmission service?**

A: All Long-term transmission service requests are subject to costs from Schedule 1A, Schedule 11 Zonal, Schedule 11 Regional, and Schedule 12 per the Open Access Transmission Tariff.

* Point-to-Point service is also subject Schedule 7 costs
* NITS service is also subject to Schedule 9 costs

\*Some of these rates vary depending upon the POD of the transmission service.

**Q: For assigned costs, is everything paid upfront or over time?**

A: If the Transmission Service Request(s) (TSR) were assigned Directly Assigned Upgrade Costs (DAUC) and parameters were adjusted, if necessary, those charges would be spread out over the term of the studied TSR(s). You would not pay the associated costs upfront, unless a Letter of Credit (LOC) is required. Refer to Attachment Z1 Section 3C. 9-10 of the SPP OATT.

**Q: How are Point-to-Point Base Rates calculated?**

A: Point-to-Point Base Rates that are assigned to requests in the Aggregate Study are calculated based on the following factors:

* Schedule 7 monthly rates, Schedule 11 Zonal monthly rates, Schedule 11 Regional monthly rates
	+ Some of these rates will vary by POD
	+ These rates come from our Settlements department and are updated monthly
* The total requested MW amount
* The term of service of the Transmission Service Request

The Schedule total rates are calculated by multiplying:

***(Requested Amount) x (Term of Service) x (Individual Schedule Monthly Rate)***

These rates are added together to get the total PTP Base Rate over the request’s term of service.

***Business Practices for NITS and Interconnection Service:***

[SPP Business Practices](https://www.spp.org/spp-documents-filings/?id=472252)

*4050 Initial Application for Network Integration Transmission Service:*

* Only one request for NITS is required to be submitted on the SPP OASIS to obtain a queue time and reservation priority.
* An initial request for NITS must be at least one year in length and must be submitted no later than 60 days prior to start of service.
* A written application containing the data specified in section 29.2 of the SPP OATT must be sent to SPP at or near the same time the OASIS request is made. The customer may use the NITS application for this purpose.
* SPP may require posting of additional OASIS reservations to more properly reflect location of designated Network Resources and Network Loads.

*4100 General Requirements for Network Integration Transmission Service:*

* Customers must submit a valid request on the SPP OASIS with valid POR/POD, source and sink information as an initial application for NITS, to add or modify a designated Network Resource, or to identify the utilization of a non-designated Network Resource.
* Requests for NITS from designated Network Resources must be submitted on the OASIS according to the timing requirements for a like term of firm point-to-point transmission service specified in Attachment P of the OATT.
* Requests for NITS from non-designated Network Resources must be submitted on the OASIS according to the timing requirements for a like term of non-firm point-to-point transmission service specified in Attachment P of the OATT.

*4150 Requesting Network Integration Transmission Service from New DNR:*

* A new request for NITS from designated Network Resources must be submitted on the SPP OASIS for each new resource. Multiple resources to be added at the same time located within the same transmission zone may be combined in one request.
* Additional Network Resources may be designated to serve Network Load for a term of one day or greater.
* A written application, signed by the customer, containing confirmation that the resource qualifies as a designated Network Resource must be received by SPP prior to confirmation of the OASIS request. In order to qualify as a designated Network Resource, schedules from the resource cannot be interrupted for economic reasons. Sources of generation referred to as firm LD (or financially firm) products, will be allowed as designated Network Resources provided these products cannot be interrupted for economic reasons. A customer may properly designate resources from system purchases not linked to a specific unit provided the purchases cannot be interrupted for economic reasons.
* The POR identified on the OASIS request should be the transmission zone where SPP receives capacity and energy from the new resource.
* A valid source and sink should be identified.
* Firm transmission service, which includes conditional firm, must be used to deliver capacity and energy from a designated Network Resource located outside the network of the SPP Transmission Owners. The reservation number of the firm transmission service being used to facilitate the addition of such a designated Network Resource must be included in the comments of the SPP OASIS request. This firm transmission service must have a term equal to or greater than the term of the Network Resource designation.
* The capacity reserved should be the capacity being designated on the new Network Resource to serve the designated Network Load.
* The Service Agreement for NITS will be updated as necessary.

*4200 Requesting Network Integration Transmission Service from Non-DNR:*

* A request for NITS from non-designated Network Resources must be submitted on the SPP OASIS for each resource not designated to serve the customer’s Network Load. Multiple non-designated resources to be utilized at the same time located from the same electrically equivalent sources and within the same AFC zone may be combined in one request.
* NITS from non-designated Network Resources may be used on an hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly basis.
* The POR identified on the OASIS request should be the transmission zone where SPP receives energy from the non-designated Network Resource.
* The POD identified on the OASIS request should be the transmission zone where the designated Network Load is located.
* A valid source and sink should be identified.
* The Request Reference Field on the reservation should include the original network service OASIS reference number.
* Only the customer with the confirmed network service for the load, or a designated agent acting on their behalf, can request network service from non-designated network resources for that load.
* NITS customers may only reserve up to 110% of their designated firm capacity on a non-firm basis at any time. Per the SPP OATT, a network customer's use of the interface capacity with other transmission systems may not exceed the network customer's load.
* The capacity reserved should be the maximum energy to be utilized in the specified service increment from the non-designated network resource to serve the designated network load.

*4250 Concomitant Requests:*

**Undesignation of a DNR:**

* A Customer may choose to undesignate, now referred to as Terminate, a DNR on a temporary or indefinite basis.
* Application to Terminate a DNR must be submitted via OASIS
* Partial Terminations of a DNR reserved quantity or period are allowed.
* Partial Termination start and stop times must be within the start and stop times of the DNR.

**Concomitant Requests:**

* A customer may choose to terminate a designated Network Resource (DNR) on a temporary basis and replace with a new DNR, Secondary Network request, or a Point-to-Point request simultaneously, subject to the following conditions:
* Requests to terminate a DNR and replace with a new DNR, Secondary Network service, or Point-to-Point service must be submitted as a single OASIS request.
* The new request must be submitted and processed in accordance with the SPP OATT timing requirements for the appropriate class and service increment required.
* The start and stop times of the new request must be contained within the start and stop times of the original reservation.
* Partial Concomitant requests of the previous reservation quantity or period are allowed.
* Sufficient ATC must exist to accommodate the new request. For the purposes of ATC evaluation, the impacts of the undesignated reservation will be replaced by the impacts of the new request during the overlapping period.
* Once the new reservation is confirmed, the capacity of the reservation that was undesignated becomes available to the market, subject to any limitations created by flow impacts of the new reservation.
* Any portion of the original request not undesignated shall remain in effect.
* Any original Yearly service that is undesignated on either a shorter duration Service Increment or undesignated on Yearly service but not to the end of the original request will maintain its rollover rights from the original DNR.

*7500 Aggregate Study Procedures:*

**Rejected Requests**

The amount of Transmission Service requested from a specific Point of Interconnection (POI) cannot exceed the injection limit at the POI as determined by the Generator Interconnection Agreement (GIA)(s) associated with the POI, which may include GIA(s) with Surplus Interconnection Service. Any Transmission Service requests submitted into the Aggregate Study process from sources at the same POI, which result in existing plus requested transmission service to be in excess of the GIA Interconnection Service amount at the POI will be refused.

During an Aggregate Facilities Study, when SPP determines that a request cannot be granted because it does not meet the pre-defined study parameters set by the customer, SPP will notify the customer by setting the request’s status on OASIS to REFUSED. The purpose of this action is to allow the customer as much time as possible to prepare another request, if needed.

At the conclusion of the study, SPP will post additional information to allow the customer to determine which study parameters could not be met. SPP will not be obligated to provide this additional information prior to the conclusion of the study.

**Open Season**

Open Seasons for submission of requests in the Aggregate Transmission Service Study process shall be as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Study ID** | **Open Season** |
| AG1 | December 1 – May 31 |
| AG2 | June 1 – November 30 |

**Transmission Service Base Plan Funding Waiver Request**

A customer may submit a waiver request, pursuant to Attachment J Section III.C.1. The request should be submitted to the contact listed on the Transmission Provider’s OASIS under the section of posted Transmission Service Studies and all documentation necessary for the Transmission Provider to evaluate the request should be provided.

The Transmission Customer shall provide additional relevant information that would assist the SPP Staff in evaluating the waiver request.

Attachment J of the Tariff requires the Transmission Provider, after receiving a waiver request, to provide a recommendation on a non-discriminatory basis to MOPC of the amount of the costs of service upgrades that exceed the Safe Harbor Cost Limit to receive Base Plan funding consideration.

Barring unusual circumstances, the Transmission Provider shall calculate the recommendation amount of costs that exceed the Safe Harbor Cost Limit which may be classified as Base Plan Upgrade costs eligible for cost allocation (wavier amount) by multiplying the number of years which the duration the Transmission Customer’s commitment to the new or changed Designated Resource exceeds the five year minimum commitment period, by 2.5%, multiplied by $180,000 per MW.

The commitment duration shall be considered the term of the Power Purchase Agreement or the term of the transmission service request.

**Timing for Submittal of a Waiver of Conditions for Base Plan Funding**

Attachment J, Section III.C.1 requires that requests for waiver of any of the conditions required to qualify for Base Plan cost allocation as set forth in Section III.B.1.a, b, and c of Attachment J of the SPP OATT “must be submitted sufficiently in advance of a regularly-scheduled meeting of the SPP Board of Directors which occurs prior to the close of the open season for the Aggregate Facilities Study to allow for review by the Transmission Provider.”

The lead time must be sufficient to permit the Transmission Provider to (1) evaluate the request, obtain any additional information needed from the requestor and prepare an initial recommendation, (2) present to the CAWG to obtain their feedback, (3) make any revisions necessary based on the CAWG feedback and prepare a final recommendation for the MOPC meeting prior to the posting deadline for MOPC meetings, and (4) prepare a recommendation for the SPP Board.

To allow time for these activities to occur, the TSR and waiver requests shall be submitted no later than August 1 for requests submitted in the window that closes the following November 30, and no later than February 1 for requests submitted in the window that closes the following May 31. If August 1 or February 1 does not fall on a Business Day, then the deadline will be the following Business Day.