SPP Interconnection Cluster Study (ICS)

Process Overview



Introduction

Old Way (Att. V / DISIS) versus New Way (Att. AY / ICS)

Why We're Changing the Process

Core problem: *the old queue could not connect generation fast enough to keep up with SPP's load growth.*

WHAT WAS BREAKING UNDER DISIS (ATTACHMENT V)

Historic load growth

Data centers and electrification need new generation online faster.

Backlogged queue

~130 GW across **550+** active DISIS requests, much of it speculative.[1]

Serial studies

Studies and restudies ran in sequence for **400+ days**.[2]

Unpredictable costs

DAUC shifted with every withdrawal, so projects could not be priced.

HOW CPP / ICS (ATTACHMENT AY) RESPONDS

Plan ahead of need

20-year and 10-year assessments build upgrades before requests arrive.

Commitment at entry

FS1 of **$8,000/MW** or 20% of GRID-C; non-refundable after DP.

One parallel study

All requests studied together in **180 days**, one Decision Point.

Published GRID-C

Fixed $/MW rates posted **before** the window opens.

Result: committed projects connect faster, with upgrade costs known before they apply.

Sources: FERC order accepting SPP CPP, ER26-414 (Mar 13, 2026); [1] Public interest organization comments, ER26-414 (Nov 2025); [2] Powerstack (Aug 2026).

Improved Parallel Flow

OLD WAY (DISIS / ATT. V) vs. NEW WAY (ATT. AY / ICS)

SPP Powering Progress

OLD WAY
DISIS / ATTACHMENT V

SERIAL STUDIES. ITERATIVE RESTUDIES. MORE DELAYS.

1. Submit Request
Individual requests enter the queue

→

2. Study Cycle
Study one at a time

→

3. Results & Issues
Issues identified lead to restudy needs

→

4. Restudy
Iterative restudies create backlog and uncertainty

→

5. Decision Point(s)
Multiple decision points and withdrawals

→

6. Final Outcome
Lengthy process with higher dropouts rates

NEW WAY
ICS / ATTACHMENT AY

PARALLEL STUDIES. ONE DECISION POINT. GREATER CERTAINTY.

1. Cluster Submissions
All requests enter together in one window

→

2. Parallel Cluster Study (One 180-Day Study)
All requests studied together in parallel
Steady-state, stability, short circuit, and facilities analysis

→

3. One Decision Point
Single, clear decision point for all

→

4. Final Outcome
Faster results, lower dropouts, higher certainty

DISIS relied on serial studies and iterative restudies that created backlog. **ICS** studies all cluster requests in parallel, reducing dropouts and restudy churn for greater certainty.

Tariff Comparison Overview

DISIS (Attachment V) vs. ICS (Attachment AY)

SPP Powering Progress

	DISIS (Attachment V)	VS.	ICS (Attachment AY)
Study Window	• **11-Month Rolling Window** Rolling window with frequent cutoffs and batches		• **Strict Annual Window** Fixed Dec 15 – Feb 15 window each year
Study Approach	• **Multi-Phase Studies** Phase 1 ⟶ Phase 2 ⟶ Restudies		• **Single 180-Day Cluster Study** All accepted requests studied in parallel
Decision Points	• **Multiple Decision Points** Phase 1, Phase 2, restudy decisions		• **One Decision Point** Make your choice once, at the end of the study
Restudies	• **Multiple Restudies** Iterative cycles create backlog and delays		• **Fewer Restudies** Only one planned restudy (for Unplanned requests)
Cost Predictability	• **Lower Predictability** DAUC volatility and restudy churn		• **Greater Predictability** Upfront **GRID** contribution rates and one study cycle

Outcome: Greater Predictability • Lower Risk • More Efficient Process

New Financial Reality

Core Shift: Under Attachment AY, FS1 is 100% non-refundable after Decision Point, and unpredictable upgrade costs are replaced with fixed, published GRID Contribution rates.

1. Financial Security 1 (FS1) Non-Refundability

- **Old Process (DISIS / Att. V):** FS1 was $4,000/MW with partial refundability during early study phases.
- **New ICS Process (Att. AY):** FS1 increases to the Greater of 20% estimated GRID Contribution OR $8,000/MW — and is **100% NON-REFUNDABLE** after Decision Point.
- **At-Risk Capital Floor:** Enforces strict financial discipline at entry ($8k/MW minimum), ensuring only fully committed projects submit.
- **Strategic Impact:** Eliminates the cascade of restudies previously caused by early project dropouts.

2. Standardized GRID Contribution Rates

- **Old Process (DISIS / Att. V):** DAUC were volatile and unpredictable, fluctuating with prior-queued project withdrawals.
- **New ICS Process (Att. AY):** Replaces DAUC with standardized GRID Contribution ($/MW) rates set and published on OASIS BEFORE the annual cluster window opens.
- **Regional Cost Sharing:** 100% Region-wide funding for EHV (≥300 kV) and 33% Regional / 67% Subregional funding for HV (100–300 kV).
- **Strategic Impact:** Fixed, predictable interconnection cost certainty for Planned POIs prior to committing submission capital.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Non-refundable FS1 ($8,000/MW min) ensures **queue discipline at entry**, while pre-published GRID Contribution rates **remove upgrade cost unpredictability** for Planned Locations.

GRID-C Walkthrough

What Is GRID-C?

A posted $/MW rate

New generators know their transmission contribution before they commit.

A connection fee for the highway system

Pays toward the 345/765 kV 'highways' and 100–300 kV 'roads' new generation will use.

Credited back to customers

GRID-C revenue offsets transmission charges paid by load.

Replaces study-by-study upgrade costs that could change as projects entered or left the queue.

Two Types of Service

ERIS

Energy delivered when the grid has room. Not guaranteed at peak.

Pays: ERIS rate

NRIS

Studied for guaranteed delivery at peak (accredited capacity).

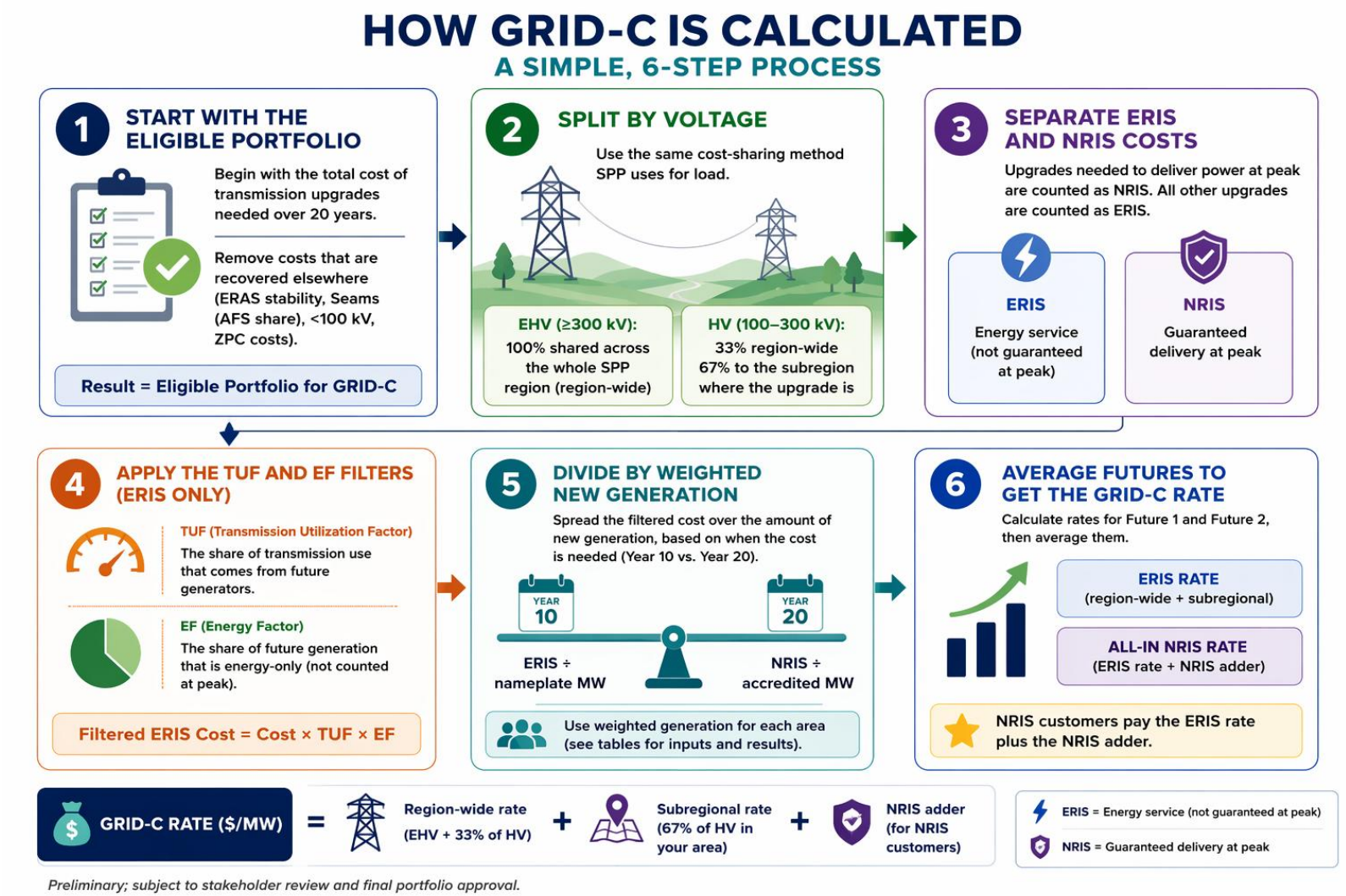
Pays: ERIS rate + NRIS adder

GRID-C = Region-wide rate + Subregional rate

One region-wide rate and five subregional rates: North, Nebraska, Central, Southeast, Southwest

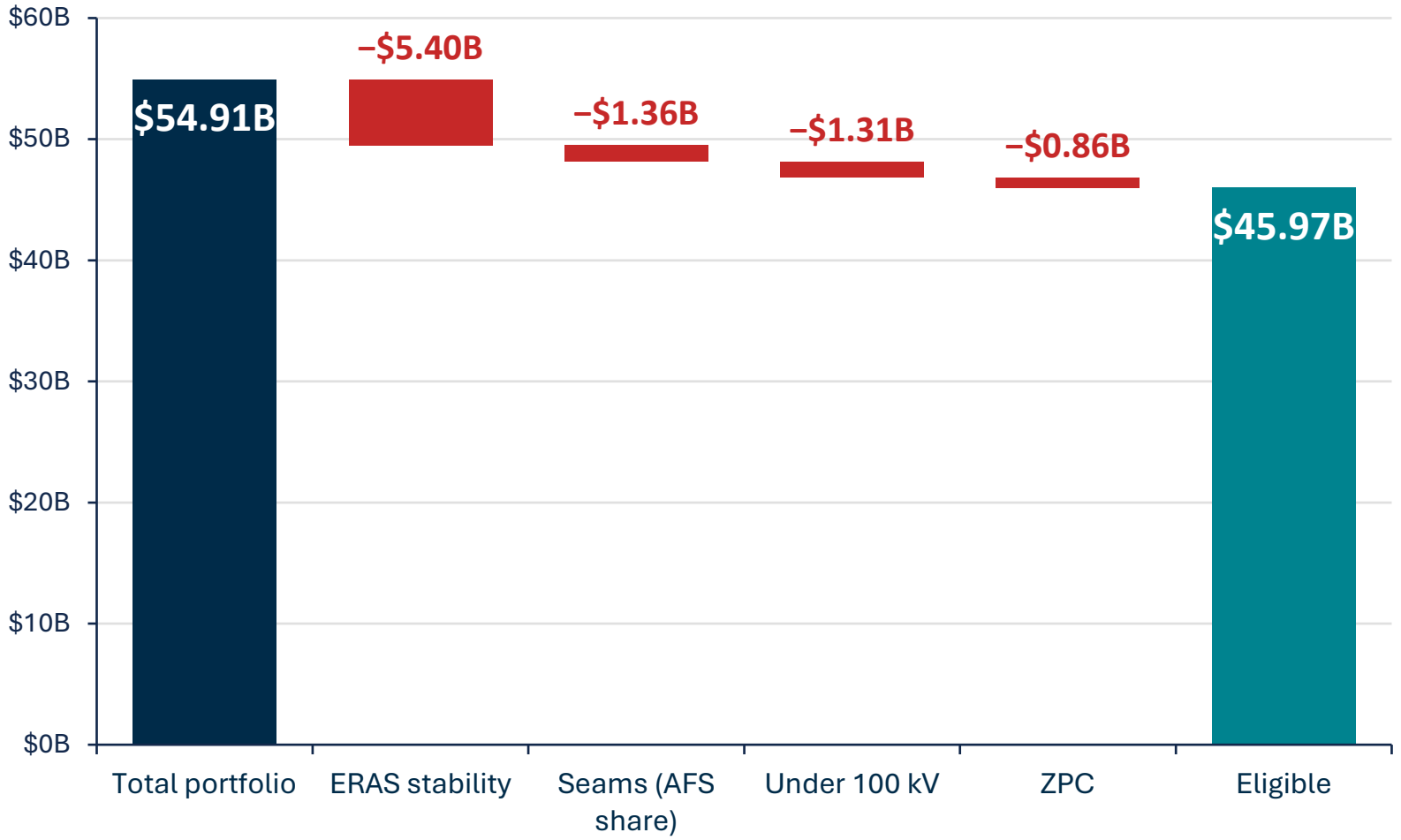
Preliminary – subject to stakeholder review and final portfolio approval

Six Steps at a Glance



1 Step 1: Start with the Eligible Portfolio

Remove costs that are paid for in other ways, so generators only pay toward what GRID-C should cover.



Why these costs are removed

−$5.40B ERAS stability
Moved to ITP base plan (transition study only)

−$1.36B Seams (AFS share)
Portion funded by affected systems

−$1.31B Under 100 kV
Directly assigned in the ICS

−$0.86B ZPC
Recovered within the zone

Total removed: −$8.94B

About 84% of the portfolio is eligible

Preliminary – subject to stakeholder review and final portfolio approval

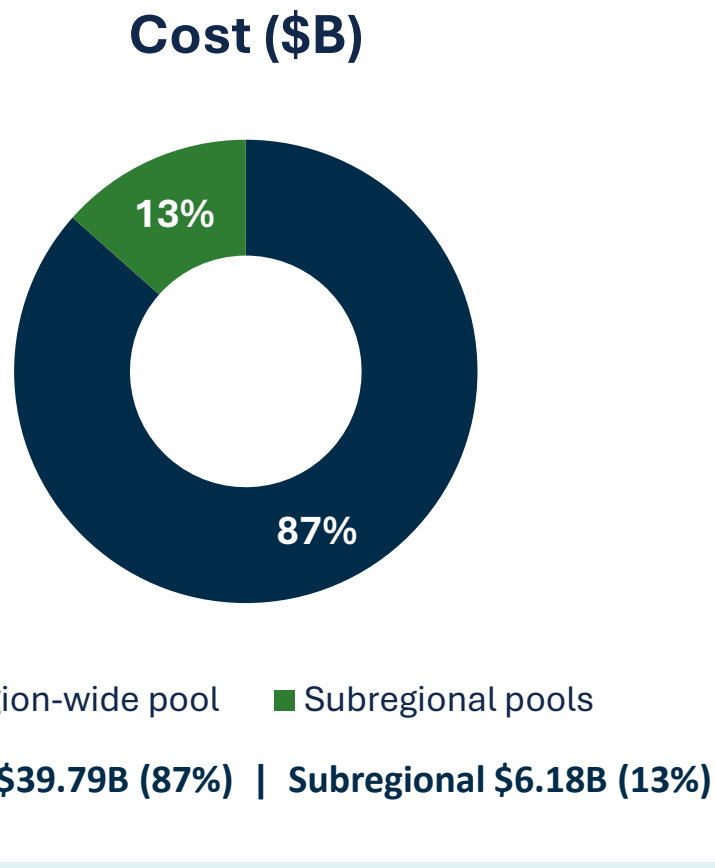
2 Step 2: Split by Voltage

EHV (≥300 kV) – the highways

100% shared across the whole SPP region

HV (100–300 kV) – the roads

33% region-wide / 67% to the subregion where the upgrade is



Region-wide $39.79B (87%) | Subregional $6.18B (13%)

Most cost is the regional backbone, so the region-wide rate is the largest part of every GRID-C.

3 Step 3: Separate ERIS and NRIS Costs

ERIS

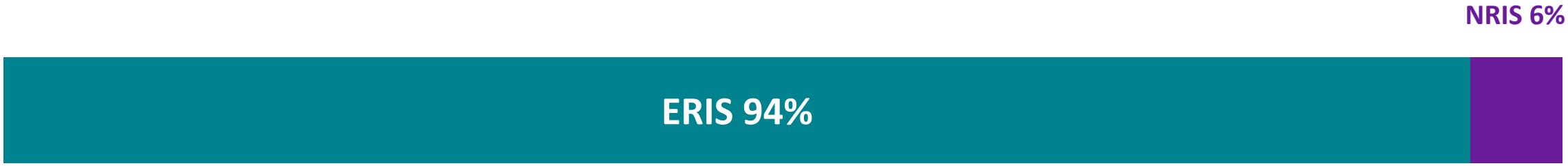
$43.27B

All other upgrades

NRIS

$2.70B

Upgrades needed to deliver power at peak



Preliminary – subject to stakeholder review and final portfolio approval

4 Step 4: Apply the TUF and EF Filters (ERIS only)



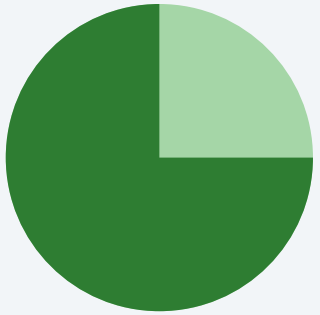
TUF – Transmission Utilization Factor

Share of transmission use that comes from new generators.

TUF = 0.50

Future 2's calculated TUF was skewed by modeled load reductions, which don't drive GRID-C, so it was held at 50%.

New users pay only their share of the traffic.



EF – Energy Factor

Share of new generation that is energy-only (not counted at peak).

EF = 1 – Accredited MW ÷ Nameplate MW

Future 1 example: 1 − (76.2 ÷ 109.2) ≈ 0.30

Filtered ERIS cost = Cost × TUF × EF

NRIS skips these filters because it is a capacity service.

5 Step 5: Divide by Weighted New Generation Example

Some transmission is needed by Year 10 and the rest by Year 20. Each part of the cost is spread over the generation expected to be online when that part is needed.

1 When is the cost needed?



18% by Year 10 **82% by Year 20**

North HV cost: $0.23B of $1.29B is needed by Year 10.

2 Match it to generation

18% × 4.8 GW (Year 10)

= 0.84 GW

82% × 11.5 GW (Year 20)

= 9.48 GW

3 Add them up

0.84 + 9.48 =

10.32 GW

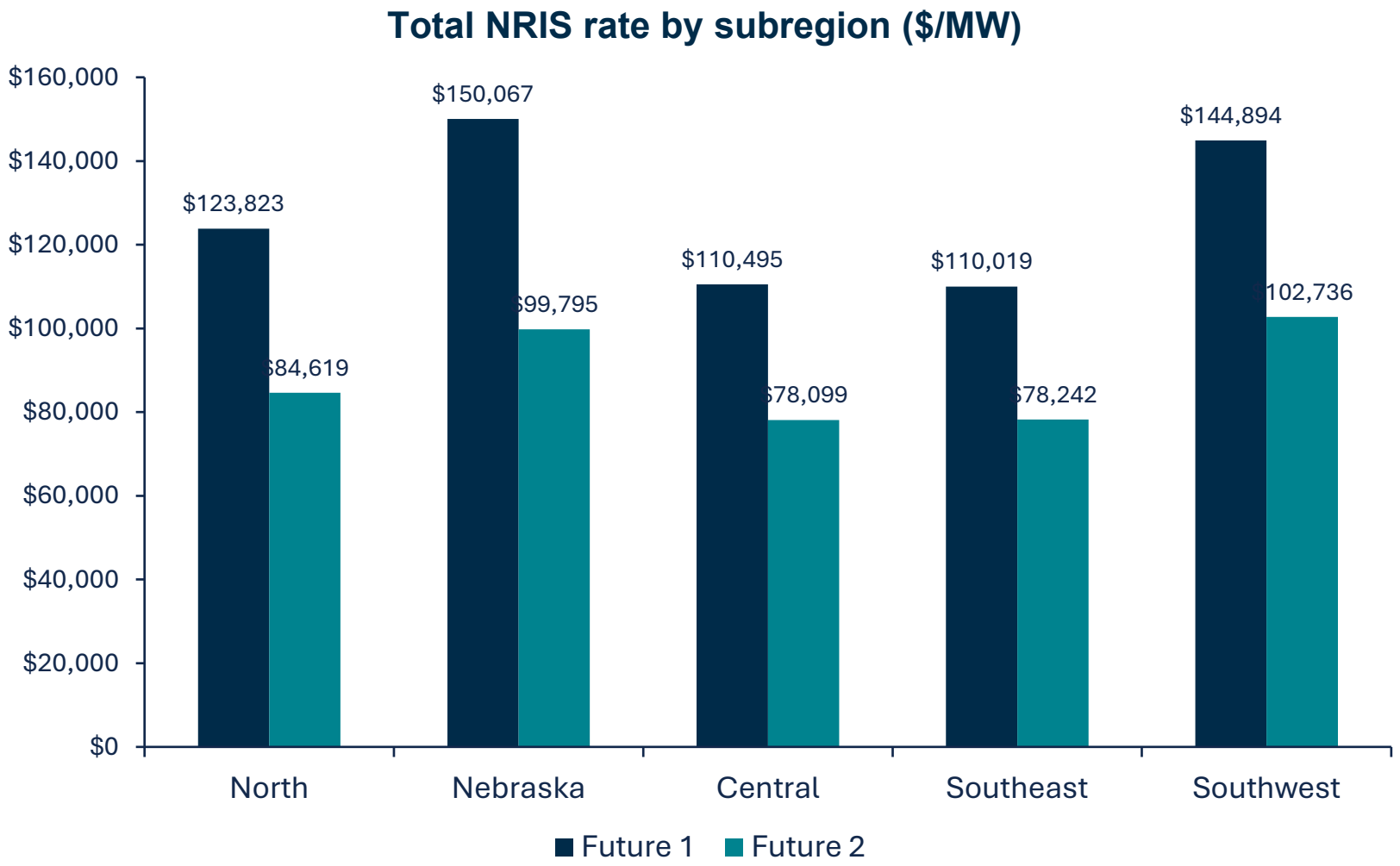
This is the number the cost is divided by

ERIS ÷ nameplate MW (all new generation)

NRIS ÷ accredited MW (capacity counted at peak)

Region-wide rates use the same method with the region-wide cost pool (EHV + 33% of HV).

6 Step 6: Average the Futures



More generation in Future 2 spreads the same cost over more MW → lower rates.

Posted rate = average of both futures.

Preliminary – subject to stakeholder review and final portfolio approval

HOW GRID-C IS CALCULATED

A simple, 6-step process

1 Start with the Eligible Portfolio

We include only the transmission upgrades that will be paid for through GRID-C.

GRID-C Eligible Portfolio Cost
$45.97B
(20-year total)

Table 5.1: Carved Out (not paid by future generators)

ERAS stability upgrades (moved to ITP base plan)	$5.40B
Seams costs (AFS share)	$1.36B
Upgrades under 100 kV (direct assigned in ICS)	$1.31B
ZPC costs (zonal planning criteria)	$0.86B

These costs are recovered elsewhere and are not charged to future generators.

2 Split by Voltage

We use the same cost-sharing method SPP uses for load.



EHV (≥300 kv)
100% shared across the whole SPP region

HV (100–300 kv)
33% to region-wide
67% to the subregion where the upgrade is

EHV costs are always region-wide.
HV costs are split 33% region-wide and 67% subregional.

3 Separate ERIS and NRIS Costs

Upgrades needed to deliver power at peak are counted as NRIS.

ERIS
Energy service (not guaranteed at peak)
$43.27B

NRIS
Studied to be deliverable at peak
$2.70B

4 Apply the TUF and EF Filters (ERIS only)

We charge only for the share of the system that new generators actually use.

TUF (Transmission Utilization Factor)
What portion of the new transmission will be used by future generators?
TUF = 0.50 for both Futures

EF (Energy Factor)
What portion of new generation is energy-only (not counted at peak)?
EF = 1 – (Accredited MW / Total Nameplate MW)
Future 1 EF (by area): 0.21 – 0.43 (see table 5.4)
Future 2 EF (by area): 0.37 – 0.57 (see table 5.4)

Filtered ERIS Cost = Cost × TUF (0.50) × EF

5 Divide by Weighted New Generation

We spread the filtered cost over the amount of new generation, based on when the cost is needed (Year 10 vs. Year 20).



Weighted generation (GW) used in the calculation (see Tables 5.5 and 5.6 for inputs and all values)

Future 1 (used in averages)	Nameplate	Accredited
Region-wide	84.915	64.087

Future 2 (used in averages)	Nameplate	Accredited
Region-wide	182.993	101.534

6 Average the Futures to Get the GRID-C Rate

We calculate rates for Future 1 and Future 2, then average them.

ERIS (region + subregion)
$62.2k – $85.0k /MW

All-in NRIS (ERIS + NRIS adder)
$94.1k – $124.9k /MW

NRIS customers pay the ERIS rate plus the NRIS adder.

Preliminary GRID-C Rates (Average of Future 1 and Future 2, $/MW)

Subregion	ERIS Total ($/MW)	NRIS Adder ($/MW)	All-In NRIS (ERIS + NRIS Adder) ($/MW)
North	$68,002	$36,219	$104,221
Nebraska	$80,859	$44,072	$124,931
Central	$63,775	$30,523	$94,297
Southeast	$62,230	$31,901	$94,131
Southwest	$84,998	$38,817	$123,815

ERIS = Energy service (not guaranteed at peak)

NRIS = Studied to be deliverable at peak

Preliminary; subject to stakeholder review and final portfolio approval.

Preliminary GRID-C Rates ($/MW)

Subregion	Total ERIS	NRIS Adder	Total NRIS
North	$68,002	$36,219	**$104,221**
Nebraska	$80,859	$44,072	**$124,931**
Central	$63,775	$30,523	**$94,297**
Southeast	$62,230	$31,901	**$94,131**
Southwest	$84,998	$38,817	**$123,815**

Region-wide portion: ERIS $58,805 | NRIS $27,006

Differences come only from subregional HV needs vs. expected generation.

Preliminary – subject to stakeholder review and final portfolio approval

Putting It Together – North ERIS (Future 1)



$11,291 subregional + $67,413 region-wide = $78,705/MW

Total Future 1 North ERIS GRID-C

Preliminary – subject to stakeholder review and final portfolio approval

What It Means for a Developer – 200 MW Central Project

ERIS only

≈ $12.8M

$63,775/MW

NRIS (ERIS + adder)

≈ $18.9M

$94,297/MW

- Known before committing – doesn't change if others withdraw
- Still directly assigned: interconnection facilities, POI and <100 kV upgrades, affected system costs

Preliminary – subject to stakeholder review and final portfolio approval

Key Takeaways

- **Predictable –** Costs known up front instead of after years of restudies
- **Fair –** TUF and EF charge only new generators' share of use
- **Focused –** ERAS stability, AFS seams share, <100 kV and ZPC costs removed
- **Consistent –** Same 100% / 33% / 67% sharing SPP uses for load
- **Credited back –** GRID-C revenue lowers charges paid by load

ICS Process Overview

Attachment AY: ICS Process Overview

1 Step 1 Entry & Validation

Dec 15 – Feb 15
(Annual Window)

First ICS Window Closes in January 2027*

- 60-day submission window
- Executed Appendix 3 Interconnection Study Agreement, Site Control, $10,000 application fee, Study & FS1 Deposits
- 60-day review period with 10-business-day cure for deficiencies
- Model freeze at end of review period; pro rata PIL downsizing

2 Step 2 Cluster Study Execution

180
Calendar Days

- Single phase study: steady-state, stability, and short circuit
- TOs provide +/-20% cost estimates for POI upgrades within 45 days
- SCR, WSCR, or CSCR **< 3.0** triggers EMT study
- Study outputs identify GRID-C allocation, Contingent Facilities, Limited Operation

3 Step 3 Decision Point Electives

20
Business Days

- Opens 1st business day after final ICS report posting
- Proceed to Facilities Study (Unplanned) or GIA Negotiation (Planned) or withdraw
- Financial Security Two (FS2): 100% GRID-C (less FS1) + 20% DAUC allocated costs
- Land & milestone escalation: 75% gen-tie ROW site control, 100% substation land, and 1+ milestone

***The first ICS Open Window differs due to the timing of GRID-C publication.**
All future windows follow the Dec 15 – Feb 15 schedule.

Step 1

Entry & Validation

ICS Submission Checklist Categories

Four buckets cover everything needed to enter the ICS process.

1 Executed Agreements & Application Forms



Interconnection Study Agreement and associated application forms and refund documentation.

- CPP GI Study Agreement (executed)
- Credit & Security Agreement (executed)
- W-9 Form
- Refund Forms

2 Demonstration of Site Control



Demonstrate you control the land needed for your Interconnection Request (same requirements as DISIS).

- 100% site control for the generating facility
- 50% site control for the gen-tie (ROW or in-lieu security)

3 Financial Requirements



Provide all required deposits and financial securities to enter and advance through ICS.

- **Application Fee:** $10,000 (non-refundable; cash)
- **Study Deposit (cash):**
  - <80 MW: $35,000 + $1,000/MW
  - 80 to <200 MW: $150,000
  - ≥200 MW: $250,000

  Becomes 100% non-refundable once the ICS begins.
- **Financial Security One (FS1):** Greater of 20% of GRID Contribution or $8,000/MW. Due at submission. Acceptable forms: cash, letter of credit, or surety bond.

4 Technical & Dynamic Modeling Submissions



Submit complete technical data, system diagrams, and dynamic models per Attachment AY requirements.

- SLDs, line parameters, collector system data
- Dynamic models (PSS®E)
- Example Collector System Excel File: https://opsportal.spp.org/documents/studies/Example%20Collector%20System%20Data%20file%20format.xls

COMPLETE, ACCURATE, AND VERIFIABLE THE FIRST TIME. There is no cure period for applications that do not submit all items in this checklist with their application. **Incomplete submissions are deemed not valid.** Be ready on Day 1.

SPP Generating Facility Modeling Submission Requirements Comparison

REQUIREMENT DIMENSION	DISIS REQUIREMENTS (ATTACHMENT V)	ICS 2028 REQUIREMENTS (ATTACHMENT AY)
Scope & Resource Coverage	• Attachment V Appendix 3 applies to all generating facilities.	• Attachment AY Appendix 3 applies to all generating facilities. *Changes below apply only to Inverter-Based Resources (IBRs), including Electric Storage Resources (ESRs).*
Model Standards & Formats (IBRs Only)	**PSSE:** MDAG Manual • UDM OR WECC-approved generic library model. **PSCAD (EMT):** • SPP EMT Model Requirements, Rev. 1 • Applicable where EMT studies are required.	**PSSE:** MDAG Manual • UDM AND WECC-approved generic library models are required. **PSCAD (EMT):** • IBRs, including stand-alone ESRs, must submit PSCAD models only if they fail SCRCCT screening. • SPP EMT Model Requirements, Rev. 1
IEEE 2800 Compliance (IBRs Only)	**Not Applicable** IEEE 2800 compliance was not applicable under DISIS.	**Phase 1:** IEEE 2800-2022 compliant.

KEY CHANGES FOR ICS 2028 (APPLY ONLY TO IBRs)

1. **Generic + UDM Models Required**
   ICS 2028 requires both UDM and WECC-approved generic models for PSSE studies.
   DISIS required one or the other.

2. **SCRCCT-Based PSCAD Requirements**
   Under ICS 2028, IBRs, including stand-alone ESRs, submit PSCAD models only if they fail SCRCCT screening.

3. **IEEE 2800 Compliance**
   IEEE 2800-2022 Phase 1 compliance applies to ICS 2028. Not applicable under DISIS.

KEY TAKEAWAY: ICS 2028 introduces significant modeling changes for IBRs by requiring both UDM and WECC-approved generic models, using SCRCCT screening to decide which IBRs, including ESRs, need PSCAD models, and applying IEEE 2800-2022 Phase 1 compliance requirements.

What Good Looks Like

The Completeness Bar

Your submission must be complete, accurate, and verifiable the first time.

There is no cure period for deficiencies.

A Complete Submission Includes:

- All required forms completed and signed
- All required documents provided
- Models & data meet SPP technical standards
- Parameters verified and consistent
- Site control and land documentation included
- Financial deposits submitted in full

No Second Chance

Incomplete submissions **will not be accepted.**

How to Succeed

1 Submit Application Early



Submit your complete application as early as possible. Early submittals allow time to resolve any issues prior to window close.

2 Verify Parameter Consistency



Cross-check all parameters across models and documents for accuracy and alignment.

3 Measure Twice, Submit Once



Take the time up front to submit once—flawlessly. There's no cure period for missing checklist items.



Complete. Accurate. Verifiable.

The foundation of a successful submission.

Planned Interconnection Locations (PILs)

What is a PIL?

A **Planned Interconnection Location (PIL)** is an SPP-identified location — typically a bus or substation at a nominal voltage — that has been pre-studied and has planned capacity available for new interconnection requests.

- Pre-studied by SPP
- Available Planned Capacity
- Supports Efficient Interconnection

Where PILs Are Published

PILs Dashboard

Interactive dashboard on SPP.org provides visibility to PILs and available planned capacity.

Planned_Sites Spreadsheet

The Planned_Sites spreadsheet (available on GlobalScape) is the **authoritative source of record for PILs** and their available capacity.

Authoritative Source of Record

If any information differs between the PILs Dashboard and the Planned_Sites spreadsheet, the **Planned_Sites spreadsheet on GlobalScape** is the **official source of record.**

PILs are designed to streamline the interconnection process by providing certainty on locations and available capacity up front.

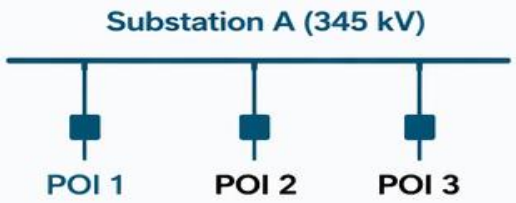
Electrical Equivalence at PILs

Technical Equivalence of Points of Interconnection (POIs)

POIs are Electrically-Equivalent when they are:

1 At the same substation and nominal voltage level

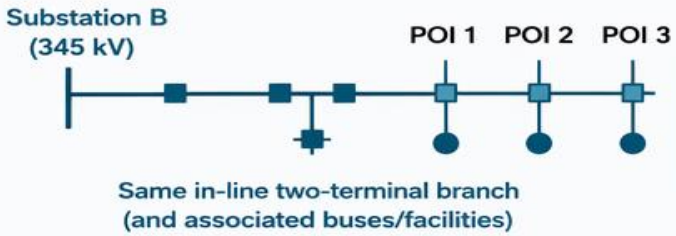
POIs at the same substation and nominal voltage are electrically equivalent.



Electrically Equivalent

2 On the same branch (or a series of in-line two-terminal branches and associated buses/facilities)

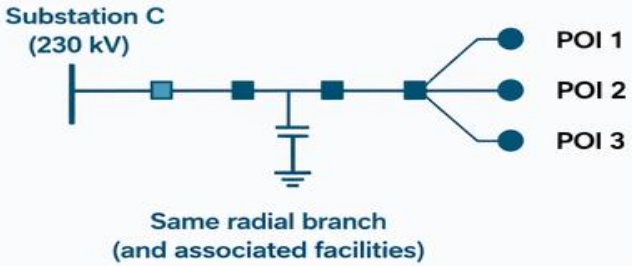
POIs on the same in-line path, including intermediate buses and facilities, are electrically equivalent.



Electrically Equivalent

3 On the same radial branch and associated facilities

POIs on the same radial path from the originating source, including associated facilities, are electrically equivalent.



Electrically Equivalent

Where Electrical Equivalence Stops

Equivalence stops at well-networked stations.

When multiple transmission paths exist (e.g., ring buses, mesh configurations, or multiple sources), POIs on different paths are no longer electrically equivalent.



Well-Networked Station Example

Multiple transmission lines connected to a bus or station create different electrical paths—equivalence does not apply.

- **Electrical equivalence can cross transformers.**
  POIs on the high and low sides of a transformer remain electrically equivalent as long as they are on the same topological path, but equivalence will still stop at well-networked stations on the low side of the transformer.

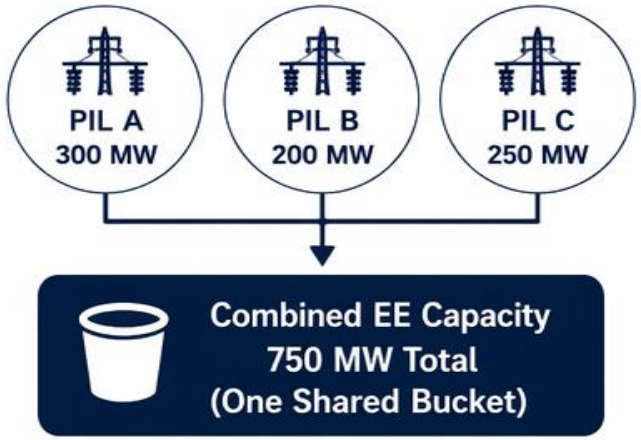
Electrical equivalence applies only within the **same topological path.**

How PIL Capacity is Allocated

Capacity Depends on Electrical Equivalence (EE) Relationships

1. EE PILs Are Additive

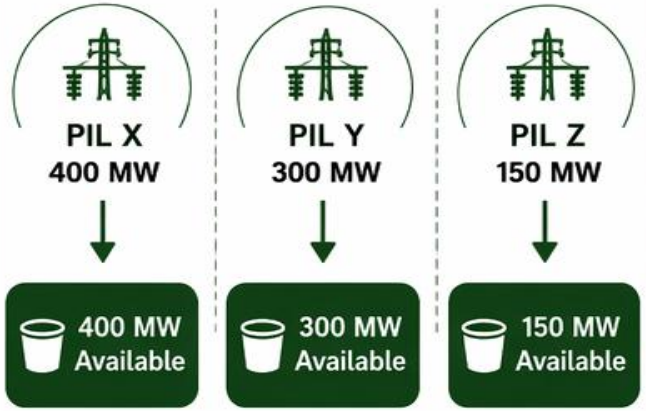
PILs that are electrically-equivalent (EE) to each other combine their available planned capacity into **one shared capacity bucket.**



All EE PILs draw from this combined total.

2. Non-EE PILs Are Independent

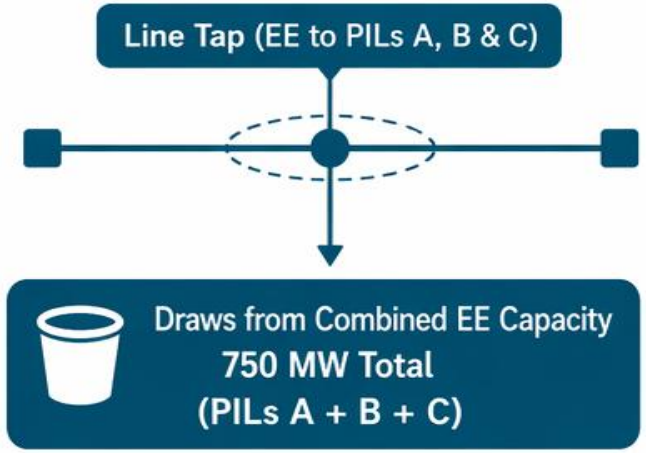
PILs that are not electrically-equivalent are independent and have **separate, standalone capacity buckets.**



Each non-EE PIL has its own capacity.

3. Line Taps Draw from Combined Capacity

If a line tap is electrically-equivalent to multiple PILs, those PILs' capacities are combined and the tap draws from the **combined total.**



NOTE

ERAS, DISIS & incoming transition RTOE projects do not have an effect on PIL capacities.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Always check electrical equivalence (EE) relationships before siting.
EE PILs combine into one shared capacity bucket; non-EE PILs are independent.
EE relationships determine how much capacity is available to your project.

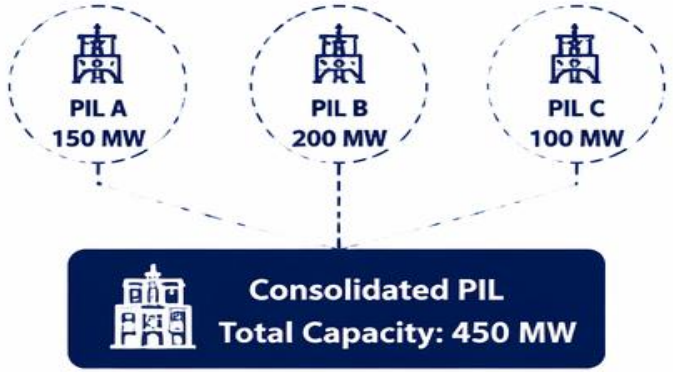
West PILs List

Naming Conventions Based on Electrical Equivalence (EE)

PILs in the West list are named according to their Electrical Equivalence (EE) relationships.

1 Consolidated PIL

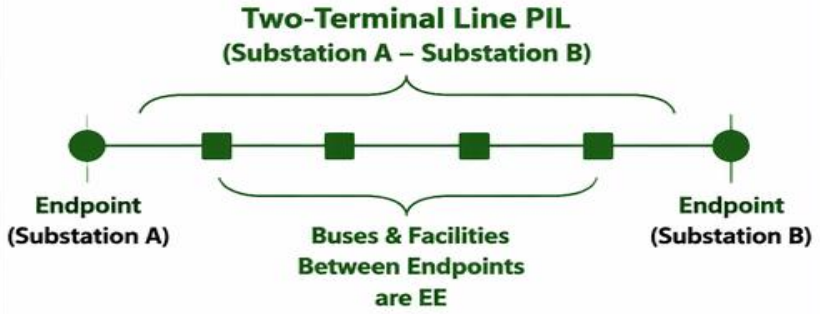
EE PILs were consolidated into one site with the combined capacity posted for the PIL.



Multiple EE PILs → One consolidated PIL with combined capacity.

2 Two-Terminal Lines

PILs with EE buses were renamed to the Two-Terminal Lines along the EE. Anything between the two lines is EE, not including the two endpoints.



Endpoints themselves are **not** included in the EE relationship.

3 Original PIL

PILs with **no EE buses** (no EE relationship to any other PILs) keep the name **"Original PIL"** from the 2027 West Siting Plan.



Name is carried forward from the 2027 West Siting Plan.

KEY TAKEAWAY

EE relationships determine how PILs are named and how their capacities are combined.
Always check EE relationships before siting to understand which capacity is available to your project.

Step 2

Cluster Study Execution

Cluster Study Execution Overview

Single-Phase Study | 180 Calendar Days

Purpose: Evaluate all Cluster Study Requests in parallel to determine facility needs, costs, and operating limitations under current and near-term reliability conditions.

What We Study

Steady-State Analysis
Evaluates thermal overloads, voltage performance, and contingency compliance.

Stability Analysis
Assesses voltage stability, frequency stability, and transient stability.

Short Circuit Analysis
Determines short circuit duties and equipment interrupting capability.

Study Execution Highlights

180 Calendar Days
The entire Cluster Study is performed in a single phase and completed within 180 calendar days.

Parallel Study of All Requests
All valid Cluster Study Requests are studied together in parallel — no serial decision points.

Facilities Assessment
TOs provide ±20% cost estimates for POI upgrades within 45 calendar days.

SCR / WSCR / CSCR Screening
Low system strength (SCR, WSCR, or CSCR < 3.0) triggers EMT study for affected requests.

Study Outputs
Identifies Directly Assigned Upgrade Costs (DAUC), GRID Contribution allocation, Contingent Facilities, and Limited Operation.

Key Deliverables

Cost Estimates
±20% cost estimates for required POI upgrades.

Cost Allocations
DAUC and GRID Contribution allocations by request.

Contingent Facilities
Any needed upgrades outside the standard POI scope.

Operating Limitations
Limited Operations or conditions that may apply.

Important: All study inputs (POI location, size, and technology) are locked at the end of the 60-Day Review Period. No changes are permitted during the 180-Day Cluster Study.

Outcome: One comprehensive study with transparent results for all Cluster Requests.

ICS 180-Day Cluster Study Execution Timeline

Three-Step Lifecycle

SPP Powering Progress

1 PRE-STUDY: 60 CALENDAR DAYS

ICS Application Review & Validation

Validation & Scoping Calls
SPP and TOs validate application completeness and scope studies.

10-Day Deficiency Cure Period
Fix deficiencies flagged by SPP during review.

10-Day PIL Downsizing Window
Make any downsizing elections for Planned (PIL) locations.

MODEL FREEZE
All submitted models and data are locked at the close of the review period. No changes allowed during the 180-day study.

2 EXECUTION: 180 CALENDAR DAYS

Single-Phase ICS Study Execution

Steady-State Powerflow Analysis
Thermal, voltage, and contingency analysis across all scenarios.

Dynamic Stability Analysis
Stability cases (L-GIM) across 7 subregional groups and all scenarios.

Facilities Analysis (±20% in 45 Days)
Identify required upgrades with ±20% cost estimates within the first 45 days.

SCRCCT & EMT Screening
SCR/WSCR/CSCR < 3.0 or CCT < 0.15s triggers EMT study.

Affected Systems Coordination
Identify and coordinate potential impacts across regional seams.

ESR-LA (Energy Storage Resource – Load Analysis)
Load analysis for energy storage resources with dual-mode (charge/discharge) capability.

3 POST-STUDY: 20 BUSINESS DAYS

Decision Point Window

DECISION POINT OPENS (Next Business Day)
The Decision Point opens the first business day after the final ICS Report is posted.

Elect an Option
Choose one path by the end of the window:
- GIA negotiation (Planned/PILs)
- Facilities Study (Unplanned)
- Exit / Withdraw from the queue

Submit FS2 Security
Post FS2 financial security:
- Planned (PILs): 100% GRID Contribution (less FS1)
- Unplanned: 20% DAUC-allocated costs

75% Gen-Tie Site Control
Provide 75% site control for the gen-tie (ROW or in-lieu security).

100% Substation Land Rights
Provide 100% site control for the substation.

Milestone Commitment
Commit to at least one enforceable milestone.

10% MIC Downsizing Window
Execute up to 10% downsizing of MIC at the Decision Point.

0	60	180		20
Study Kickoff	End of Review Period (Model Freeze)	Cluster Study Completed (180 Calendar Days)	Decision Point Opens (Next Business Day)	Decision Point Window (20 Business Days)

IMPORTANT NOTES:
- Models and data are frozen at the end of the 60-day review period—no changes allowed during the 180-day study.
- All study workstreams execute in parallel to maximize efficiency and transparency.
- FERC Order 2023 study delay penalty ($1,000/day) does not apply until the third ICS cycle.

KEY TAKEAWAY:
Three distinct steps—prepare completely up front to succeed.

ICS Parallel Workflow 1 of 6: Steady-State Powerflow Analysis

DISIS vs. ICS (Attachment V vs. Attachment AY)

Purpose: Evaluate thermal overloads, voltage performance, and *contingency compliance across the cluster* under current and near-term system conditions.

DIMENSION	DISIS (ATTACHMENT V)	ICS (ATTACHMENT AY)
1. Study Architecture & Baseline Models	• 3-Phase study process: Phase 1, Phase 2, and Restudies (as needed) • ITP Base Reliability (BR) cases as the base • Base, PQ, and CQ case sets	• **Single-Phase** cluster study (1 planned restudy for Unplanned) • **L-GIM** cases from CPP Base Reliability (BR) • **L-GIM Base, PQ, Planned (PILs), and All-In** case sets
2. Generator Dispatch & Sinking	• Clustered simultaneous dispatch of all projects in the study group • Sinking via Large Resource Schedules (LRS) across TO areas	• **Standalone 1-at-a-time CQ dispatch** • Sinking via **Deliverability Area LRS with additional regional scaling**
3. Thermal Overload & Voltage Criteria	• Thermal limits: NERC TPL-001 Rate A / B • TDF and contingency evaluation rules as defined in Attachment V • Voltage criteria: $\Delta V \geq 0.02$ pu	• Retains NERC TPL-001 Rate A / B and TDF evaluation • Separates **Planned (PILs)** vs. **Unplanned (non-PILs)** evaluations • L-GIM overloads correlated with **CPP Constraints**
4. Cost Allocation & Upgrade Funding	• Purely Directly Assigned Upgrade Costs (DAUC) • Costs and allocations can change with project withdrawals and restudies	• **Dual cost framework:** – **Planned (PILs)**: funded via **GRID Contribution (GRID-C)** rates – **Unplanned (non-PILs)**: **DAUC** only for incremental needs • Greater cost certainty for Planned Locations

KEY TAKEAWAY: **Single-phase L-GIM models** and **one-at-a-time CQ dispatch** replace 3-phase clustered study churn while introducing **GRID-C rates for Planned** upgrades.

ICS Parallel Workflow 2 of 6: Dynamic Stability Analysis

DISIS vs. ICS (Attachment V vs. Attachment AY)

SPP Powering Progress

Purpose: Assess voltage and frequency stability of all valid Cluster Study Requests under specified system conditions to identify potential stability issues and mitigation needs.

DIMENSION	DISIS (ATTACHMENT V)	ICS (ATTACHMENT AY)
1. Stability Model Sets & Architecture	• Year 5 Peak MDAG base models across entire SPP footprint • 3 case sets: Base, PQ, CQ • Clustered model build across the entire SPP footprint	• Subregional L-GIM modeling across **7 subregional groups** • 4 case sets: Base L-GIM, PQ, Planned/PILs, All-In/Unplanned • **44 total stability cases:** 2 Base (planned & unplanned) + **42 subregional group-specific cases** (6 scenarios × 7 groups) • Parallel evaluation within the 180-day ICS study
2. Dynamic Model Requirements	• Positive-sequence PSS®E .dyre models AND validated UDMs at entry • Higher late-stage error risk due to custom UDMs	• Validated RMS positive-sequence models • **Generic library models** (PSS®E / PSLF / PowerWorld) per Attachment AY Appendix 3 • EMT models when performed • All model parameters **validated by IC / OEM** at entry
3. Fault Events & Grid Screening	• NERC TPL-001 events: P0, P1, and P4 within 2–3 buses of POI	• NERC TPL-001 events: P0, P1, and P4 across all subregional export scenarios • Upfront SCRCCT screening during the 180-day ICS study: – **SCR / WSCR < 3.0 OR CCT < 0.15 seconds** triggers EMT study
4. Mitigations & LOIS Output	• Mitigations: reduced clearing times, removal of reclosing • LOIS based on ≥ 3% PTDF threshold • LOIS driven by thermal/voltage limits	• Mitigations: reduced clearing times **PLUS** subregional export mitigations • LOIS reported in **50 MW increments** across seasonal windows (summer, shoulder, winter) • Provides consistent, decision-ready LOIS for all requests
5. Key Difference	Serial, project-by-project approach limits visibility of broader system stability impacts.	**Parallel, subregional approach provides full-cluster visibility, consistency, and identification of system-wide stability needs.**

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. **Subregional L-GIM Modeling:** ICS uses 7 subregional groups and 44 total stability cases for a more accurate, scalable assessment.
2. **Standardized Models at Entry:** Generic library models with validated parameters reduce risk and improve consistency.
3. **Proactive Grid-Strength Screening:** SCRCCT screening (SCR / WSCR < 3.0 or CCT < 0.15s) up front drives targeted EMT studies and earlier mitigation.

ICS Parallel Workflow 3 of 6: Facilities Analysis

DISIS vs. ICS (Attachment V vs. Attachment AY)

SPP Powering Progress

Purpose: Develop and cost POI upgrade options within the 180-day study to ensure reliable interconnection under approved planning criteria.

DIMENSION	DISIS (ATTACHMENT V)	ICS (ATTACHMENT AY)
1. Study Timing & Workflow	• Facilities analysis performed after Phase 1 and Phase 2 study results. • Separate **60-calendar-day** IFS post-DP2 for **ALL** projects. • POI upgrade options not available until after DP2.	• TOs provide **±20%** POI upgrade cost estimates **within 45 calendar days** of study start **DURING** the 180-day cluster study. • **PILs bypass** post-DP Facilities Studies and go **straight to GIA negotiation** at the Decision Point. • Unplanned (non-PILs) receive a separate **45-calendar-day** IFS post-DP.
2. Study Scope & Accuracy	• Upgrade needs and costs developed after earlier study phases. • Costs may change with each restudy due to project withdrawals. • No defined accuracy range for early estimates.	• TOs deliver **±20% accuracy** range for all POI upgrade cost estimates **within the first 45 days** of the study. • Provides earlier cost certainty for developers. • Unplanned projects have a **45-calendar-day IFS** to refine upgrades and costs post-DP.
3. Technical & Feeder Requirements	• Standard substation engineering review for POI upgrades. • Limited feeder-level reactive and low-load analysis.	**Adds upfront technical rigor:** • Zero & Low-Load **Feeder Reactive Power Compensation** checks to ensure voltage performance under minimum load. • **TO Local Planning Criteria (LPC)** studies (adds **+25 days**) for applicable planned upgrades. • **Short-Circuit Fault Duty** analysis for equipment capability.
4. Refreshes & Post-DP Path	• Results vary across restudies and phases. • No formal refresh of facilities results post-DP. • All projects proceed through post-DP Facilities Study to refine upgrades.	• ICS Report is **refreshed within 30 calendar days post-DP** if project withdrawals alter PIL layouts or available capacity. • PIL projects proceed **directly to CPP GIA negotiation.** • Unplanned projects complete the **45-calendar-day IFS** after DP to finalize upgrade needs and costs.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. PIL FAST-TRACK (GIA BYPASS)
PILs skip post-DP Facilities Studies and go straight to GIA negotiation, saving time and reducing uncertainty.

2. UPFRONT TECHNICAL RIGOR
Feeder reactive checks, LPC studies (+25 days), and fault duty analysis strengthen reliability and design.

3. STREAMLINED UNPLANNED PATH
Unplanned projects receive a defined 45-day IFS post-DP to refine upgrades and achieve cost certainty.

ICS Parallel Workflow 4 of 6: SCRCCT & EMT Screening

DISIS vs. ICS (Attachment V vs. Attachment AY)

Purpose: Screen system strength and inverter stability early in the study to identify IBRs that require EMT analysis and to ensure reliable interconnection under weak-grid conditions.

DIMENSION	DISIS (ATTACHMENT V)	ICS (ATTACHMENT AY)
1. Screening Timing & Workflow Integration	• EMT screening typically performed late in the process. • Triggered after contingency studies indicate potential stability issues. • EMT studies performed ≥ 15 months prior to COD.	• **Upfront SCRCCT screening** performed during the 180-day ICS study for all IBRs and applicable storage. • Projects **failing screening trigger** full **PSCAD EMT testing.** • EMT modeling commences **60 days post-Decision Point.** • Integrates weak-grid identification **early** to reduce rework.
2. Grid Strength Thresholds & Criteria	• No standardized, upfront system strength thresholds. • EMT studies often initiated reactively based on study findings.	• SCRCCT screening uses system strength and fault ride-through: – **SCR < 3.0, CSCR < 3.0, or WSCR < 3.0** – **CCT < 0.15 seconds (9 cycles)** • Projects **failing screening** proceed to EMT studies.
3. IBR & Storage Scope	• EMT studies primarily focused on individual IBR facilities near the POI. • Standalone storage EMT testing not consistently required.	• Applies to all Inverter-Based Resources (IBRs) and applicable storage. • **PSCAD EMT testing** applies only to IBR facilities that **fail SCRCCT screening** (including standalone ESRs). • Standalone ESRs follow the same SCRCCT-based criteria as other IBRs.
4. Model Requirements & Study Execution	• Custom **EMT** models developed late in the study. • Higher risk of modeling errors and study delays.	• RMS screening uses **validated generic library models** (PSS®E / PSLF / PowerWorld) for all IBRs and ESRs throughout the 180-day study. • Detailed PSCAD EMT models are developed **post-DP** only for facilities that fail SCRCCT screening.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Upfront SCRCCT screening **(SCR/CSCR/WSCR < 3.0 or CCT < 0.15s)** during the 180-day study identifies weak-grid and inverter-stability risks early and stage-gates projects requiring EMT studies.

1 Upfront Weak-Grid ID
Screen all IBRs and applicable storage during the 180-day study to identify weak-grid risks early.

2 Predictable EMT Stage-Gating
Projects failing screening begin PSCAD EMT modeling 60 days post-DP.

3 Consistent IBR Treatment
Standalone ESRs follow the same SCRCCT screening as other IBRs; PSCAD EMT required only if screening fails.

ICS Parallel Workflow 5 of 6: Affected Systems Coordination

DISIS vs. ICS (Attachment V vs. Attachment AY)

Purpose: Identify and evaluate potential impacts of new interconnection requests on neighboring systems to support reliable, coordinated planning across regional boundaries.

DIMENSION	DISIS (ATTACHMENT V)	ICS (ATTACHMENT AY)
1. Study Timing & Seams Screening	• Affected system evaluation typically occurred late in the process, often during restudies. • Seams impacts identified reactively after issues were discovered.	• Affected Systems (AFS) evaluation occurs **in parallel** during the 180-day ICS study. • Seams screening scope: **1 to 5 substations (≥60 kV)** at **3% System-Intact / 20% Contingency TDF** threshold. • Provides **early identification** of cross-border reliability impacts.
2. ICS Restudy Pause Rights (Section V.9.2.2)	• No formal ability to pause Affected System Studies when an ICS restudy was initiated. • External studies and coordination continued, increasing risk of rework.	• SPP may **pause** Affected System Studies upon initiating an **ICS Restudy**. • SPP provides **written notice at least 5 business days** in advance of the pause. • Prevents unnecessary external study effort during restudy cycles.
3. GIA Execution Protection (Section V.11.2.1)	• No specific extension to GIA execution based on when Affected System Study results were received. • Developers at risk of missing GIA execution deadlines due to external study timing.	• GIA execution period is automatically extended up to **30 Calendar Days** post-receipt of the Affected System report. • Extension capped at a firm **30-calendar-day** material-harm limit. • Protects developers from delays outside of their control.
4. Regional Seams Framework Status	• Joint Targeted Interconnection Queue (JTIQ) used for seams coordination. • JTIQ requests could be submitted and coordinated separately.	• The Joint Targeted Interconnection Queue (JTIQ) **is fully subscribed and no longer applicable** for new interconnection requests. • Seams coordination now performed under **Attachment AY, Section V.9**. • All new requests rely on the ICS process for Affected Systems coordination.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Affected Systems evaluation in ICS is proactive, protected, and aligned with the new tariff provisions—**reducing delays, avoiding duplicate work, and strengthening regional reliability.**

1 Early Visibility
Parallel evaluation in the 180-day study identifies seams impacts early using a defined screening threshold.

2 Restudy Pause Rights
Per Section V.9.2.2, SPP may pause Affected System Studies with at least 5 business days' written notice when an ICS Restudy is initiated.

3 GIA Execution Protection
Per Section V.11.2.1, GIA execution is extended up to 30 calendar days post-receipt of the Affected System report (30-day material-harm cap).

JTIQ Fully Subscribed
JTIQ is fully subscribed and no longer applicable for new requests; seams coordination now performed under Attachment AY, Section V.9.

ICS Parallel Workflow 6 of 6: ESR-LA (Energy Storage Dual-Mode Assessment)

DISIS vs. ICS (Attachment V vs. Attachment AY)

Purpose: Evaluate energy storage resources in both Discharging (Generation) and Charging (Load) modes to identify reliability impacts and mitigation needs.

DIMENSION	DISIS (ATTACHMENT V)	ICS (ATTACHMENT AY)
1. Study Scope & Dual-Mode Timing	• Storage studies typically addressed late in the process or on a case-by-case basis. • Dual-mode (charge & discharge) impacts not consistently evaluated early. • Separate operating studies often required.	• **ESR-LA performed concurrently** for all storage resources during the 180-day ICS study. • Mandatory evaluation in both **Discharge (Generation)** mode and **Charge (Load Withdrawal) mode**. • Single Interconnection Request (IR) covers both modes.
2. Operating Limits & Study Method	• No standardized method for identifying off-peak charging limits. • Charging mode impacts and limits often determined in separate, ad-hoc studies.	• Identifies **seasonal off-peak charging MW limits** based on **customer-submitted charging behavior and power factors**. • Limits are established within the 180-day ICS study to inform costs and operational impacts. • Ensures consistent, upfront evaluation of charging mode.
3. Contractual & Tariff Enforcement	• Charging limits not formally memorialized in the GIA. • Operating above limits may not be enforceable until later stages.	• Off-peak charging limits are a **binding term of** the CPP GIA **(Appendix H)**. • Operating outside **Appendix H** limits is an immediate material **breach** of the GIA and subject to enforcement.
4. Frequency Response & Storage Governance	• Frequency response during charging not consistently required. • State of Charge (SOC) limits not standardized.	• ESRs must provide **droop-based frequency response** during charging (Art. 9.6.4.4 of the CPP GIA). • Static and dynamic **State of Charge (SOC) bounds** established in **GIA Appendix C**. • Supports grid security and reliable wholesale market participation.

KEY TAKEAWAY: ICS evaluates storage resources in both charging and discharging modes during the 180-day study and enforces limits through the GIA to ensure **reliable, secure, and compliant operation**.

1 **Concurrent Dual-Mode Evaluation**
ESR-LA evaluates Discharge (Generation) and Charge (Load Withdrawal) modes concurrently during the 180-day ICS study for all energy storage resources.

2 **GIA Appendix H Binding Enforcement**
Off-peak charging limits are a binding term of Appendix H. Operating outside these limits is an immediate material breach of the GIA and subject to enforcement.

Active Grid Security & Wholesale Settlement
ESRs must provide droop-based frequency response during charging (Art. 9.6.4.4), and SOC bounds are established in Appendix C to support grid reliability and market participation.

Study Outputs: What the ICS Final Report Delivers

Decision Point–Ready Results for Every Project

SPP Powering Progress

Purpose: Provide clear, consistent, and actionable results that developers need to make informed decisions at the Decision Point.

1 Directly Assigned Upgrade Costs (DAUC)

Costs to interconnect at your POI that are assigned **only to your project.**

- Calculated using cost allocation factors specified in the Tariff.
- Includes incremental upgrades required for interconnection.
- Forms the basis for your financial planning and FS2 calculation.

What You Get

- Dollar amount of DAUC allocated to each project
- Breakdown by upgrade type and scope (where applicable)
- Used to calculate FS2 at the Decision Point

2 Contingent Facilities

Unbuilt upgrades that are needed by prior-queued (PO) requests upon which your project's viability depends.

- Identified via 2-step TDF screening (**≥3% threshold**).
- Paid for proportionally by all projects that benefit from the upgrade.
- Codified in **Appendix A** of the draft GIA.
- If a prior-queued project drops out, an ICS Restudy may be initiated or DAUC reallocation occurs.

What You Get

- List of contingent facilities and estimated costs
- Allocation methodology for cost sharing among benefiting projects
- Transparency in regional reliability planning

3 Limited Operation (LOIS)

MW

The **maximum output** (in MW) your project can operate at before network upgrades are in service.

- LOIS values are determined for each seasonal operating window.
- Stability-model LOIS values are determined in **50 MW increments** within the study.
- Reflects thermal, voltage, and stability constraints.
- Supports operational planning prior to required upgrade completion.

What You Get

- LOIS values for each seasonal operating window
- Stability-model LOIS values determined in **50 MW increments**
- Operating limits to support planning and revenue forecasting

KEY TAKEAWAY:

These three outputs give you the **cost**, the **shared upgrades**, and the **operating limits** needed to make confident, well-informed decisions at the Decision Point. LOIS values are provided by seasonal operating window, with stability-model LOIS values determined in **50 MW increments**.

1. **Cost Clarity**
   Know the exact DAUC assigned to your project for interconnection and FS2 planning.
2. **Shared Upgrade Transparency**
   Understand contingent facilities and how costs are shared across all benefiting projects.
3. **Operational Certainty**
   LOIS values are provided by seasonal operating window to help you plan generation capability with confidence before upgrades are in service.

Step 3

Decision Point

Decision Point: Your 20-Business-Day Window

One Decision. No Second Chance.

The Decision Point opens the first business day after the final ICS Report is posted.
You have **20** business days to make your election.

20 BUSINESS DAYS

YOUR ELECTION AT THE DECISION POINT

1. ELECT GIA
(Planned Requests / PILs)

Proceed directly to CPP GIA negotiation.

- Based on GRID-C upgrades assigned in the ICS.
- No additional Facilities Study required.

2. ELECT FACILITIES STUDY
(Unplanned Requests)

Continue to a detailed Facilities Study.

- Evaluates incremental needs beyond ICS.
- Results inform GIA negotiation.

3. WITHDRAW YOUR REQUEST

Exit the queue at the Decision Point.

- Forfeit application fee and study deposit.
- Request is removed from the study process.

This is your only opportunity to make a commercial or withdrawal election.
There is no "second chance."

REQUIREMENTS AT THE DECISION POINT

Submit Financial Security 2 (FS2)
100% of the GRID-C (less FS1) for Planned upgrades and 20% of DAUC-allocated costs for Unplanned upgrades.

75% Gen-Tie Site Control
Provide binding demonstration of site control for at least 75% of the gen-tie line route.

100% Substation Land Rights
Provide binding rights or control for 100% of the substation site.

Milestone Commitment
Commit to at least one enforceable milestone that advances the project toward commercial operation.

Meet all requirements within 20 business days to keep your project moving forward.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Single Decision
Elect GIA, elect Facilities Study, or withdraw—no second chance.

Meet Requirements
FS2, 75% gen-tie site control, 100% substation land, and 1+ milestone are mandatory.

Act Within 20 Business Days
The window opens the next business day after the final ICS Report is posted.

Stay on Track
Complete requirements and make your election to advance toward commercial operation.

What This Means for You

Core shift: *you commit more up front; in return you get known costs, one 180-day study and one decision.*

1 Before the window closes

- **Choose PIL or UPIL.** Planned locations use GRID-C; Unplanned carry 100% DAUC.
- **Post FS1 at entry.** Greater of $8,000/MW or 20% of GRID-C.
- **Submit a complete package.** Missing items void the request; only deficiencies get a 10-business-day cure.
- **Expect pro-rata at busy PILs.** Submission timing earns no priority.

2 During the 180-day study

- **Models freeze** at the end of the review period, so submit them right the first time.
- **One parallel study** covers steady-state, stability, short circuit and facilities.
- **Weak-grid POIs** (SCR below 3.0) trigger an EMT study.
- **Withdrawing costs more:** fees, study deposit and 2x allocated study cost.

3 At the Decision Point

- **20 business days** to decide after the final ICS report posts.
- **Post FS2:** 100% of GRID-C (less FS1) plus 20% of DAUC.
- **Show site control:** 75% gen-tie ROW and 100% substation land.
- **Security is at risk:** withdrawing after DP forfeits 100% of the GRID-C allocation.

Key dates: current window closes ~Jan 11, 2027 • annual windows run Dec 15 – Feb 15 starting Dec 15, 2027

Source: SPP OATT Attachment AY and CPP Manual; window close date depends on East GRID Rate posting (expected Nov 2026).

How to Learn More

Where to go next: *a new education session, plus the SPP documents and tools behind this process.*

COMING SOON

Get Informed Fridays

Recurring Friday sessions that walk through CPP and ICS topics and take your questions.

Next Session TBD

Registration details to follow.

CPP Manual v2.0A

Process detail; posted Aug 21, 2026 in SPP Documents and Filings.

OATT Attachment AY

The tariff language governing CPP and the ICS.

IMS portal

Submit interconnection requests and track their status.

GI email updates

Register for the GI Studies exploder on spp.org.

Study postings

Study results, reports and cluster status updates.

Hosting Capacity Tool

Screen available grid capacity before picking a POI.

Start here: the Consolidated Planning Process page on spp.org (Engineering menu) links to these resources.

Source: spp.org Generator Interconnection and SPP Documents and Filings pages (accessed Oct 2026).

Questions?

We're here to help.

If you have any questions about the ICS process, please reach out to the **SPP GI Team.**





Lori Cloninger

SPP GI Team

lcloninger@spp.org



Lyndon Youngblood

SPP GI Team

lyoungblood@spp.org

Helpful Links

Helpful Links and Resources

- Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) Attachment AY Consolidated Planning Process (CPP)
- Consolidated Planning Process (CPP) Manual
- Interconnection Cluster Study (ICS) Submission Check List
- Planned Interconnection Locations (PILs) Dashboard
- Interconnection Cluster Study (ICS) Financial Requirements-Risks-Refunds
- Demonstration of Site Control Attestation Form ICS
- Solar Collector System Spreadsheet Example
- Wind Collector System Spreadsheet Example
- SIMS User Guide
- Credit Security Agreement
- SPP Letter of Credit Template (Example)
- Surety Bond Form – Appendix F
- SPP Study Deposit Refund Form
- Request Management System (RMS)
- Exploder Lists

Common Stakeholder Questions & Answers

Frequently Asked Questions

SPP CPP/ICS FAQ Document Link