

Appendix Q

Instructions for Accessing Model Data

In this appendix, the Companies provide instructions for accessing relevant, publicly available Western Electricity Coordinating Council (“WECC”) base case data and Company-specific study models in accordance with FERC Order 845. Because this information includes Critical Energy Infrastructure Information (“CEII”) protected under NERC and FERC rules as well as information for which WECC limits access under its Information Sharing Policy, the Companies are providing these instructions so that stakeholders can seek direct access to the materials consistent with the applicable rules.

WECC Base Case Data

WECC compiles and develops base cases for use in conducting studies of the interconnected bulk electric system in the western part of the continental United States, Canada, and Mexico. The base cases are used to analyze inter-area transfer capabilities and interconnected bulk power system reliability, including analysis of possible new bulk power system facility additions. The base cases represent projected or starting power system conditions for a specific point in time, and include respective projected loads, projected resources, and projected bulk power transmission systems.

The base case data is made available in accordance with WECC’s Information Sharing Policy and under binding arrangements that provide against further disclosure. Specifically, pursuant to rules issued by NERC, WECC limits access to certain WECC data to persons who have executed non-disclosure agreements.

The Companies provide instructions here on the process to request access to this WECC data.

To obtain credentials for the WECC website, go to the WECC home page (www.wecc.org) and select “Log In” in the top right corner of the home page.

In the grey drop-down menu, select the option to “Request a Login” located to the left. This generates a form that you will need to complete. As part of the form, you can select “I would like to initiate the Confidentiality / Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) process because I need access to non-public information as set forth in the WECC Information Sharing Policy.”

Upon submission of the form, you will receive an e-mail requesting verification of your e-mail address and to create a password. After you have created the password, you will be able to log into the WECC website.

From there, you may send an e-mail to support@wecc.org to request access to confidential information. In general, you will be required to submit a WECC Information Request Form and WECC Confidentiality Agreement in order to gain access to the confidential materials.

Once access to the confidential materials is granted and the user is logged in, base cases can be accessed through the WECC home page. Select the “Programs Areas” tab along the blue ribbon on the WECC home page. This action creates a white drop-down menu in which the user can select “Reliability Planning & Performance Analysis.” This action creates a second white menu to the right in which the user can select “System Stability Planning.”

On the System Stability Planning page, select “Base Cases” along the left side of the screen.

Public Service Network Model Data

Public Service Network Model data, also known as Base Case data, is made available to eligible requesters who have a valid reliability and/or business-related need for the information. In accordance with FERC Order 845, Public Service as the Transmission Provider may require that Interconnection Customers, OASIS site users, and password-protected website users sign a confidentiality agreement before the release of commercially sensitive information or Critical Energy Infrastructure Information in the Base Case data. In order to submit a request to access Public Service Network Model (or Base Case) data, please go to Public Service’s OASIS site (<https://www.oasis.oati.com/psco/index.html>), click on folder named “FERC Order 845 Compliance”, and click on the document titled “FERC 845 Request Form”. Please send the completed form and required attachments to PSCoInterconnection@xcelenergy.com.

Black Hills Network Model Data

Pursuant to FERC Order 845 and as further clarified in 845-A, Transmission Providers must entertain requests for access to information described as Base Case Data. In appropriate circumstances, as set forth in order 845, 845-A, Black Hills’ LGIP, access to Base Case Data will be provided to approved requesting parties via a password-protected website. There is a link to that password-protected website login on Black Hills’ OASIS site: <http://www.oatioasis.com/bhct/>.

To access the base case data request, expand the “Interconnection Requests” folder on the left column of the page and click the link for the Base Case Access Request Form. The form must be completed in its entirety, notarized, and submitted to transmissionservice@blackhillscorp.com. Within 10 business days of receipt of a fully completed, executed and notarized base case data access form, Black Hills will notify the requesting party if the request has been conditionally approved or rejected. If approved, Black Hills will require an NDA to be signed.

Once the NDA has been approved and executed, Black Hills will notify the requesting party that the approval process is complete and will provide the requesting party with an e-mail invitation to its password-protected site. Access to the password-protected site is valid for 90 calendar days. The complete step-by-step process can be accessed on Black Hills' OASIS site under "Interconnection Requests" by clicking on the Base Case Data Request Procedures link.

Tri-State Network Model Data

FERC Order 845 revised section 2.3 of the *pro forma* Large Generator Interconnection Procedures requires Transmission Providers to maintain network models and underlying assumptions either on their OASIS site or on a password-protected website. Such network models and underlying assumptions are required to reasonably represent the data used during the most recent interconnection study and be representative of current system conditions. Under Order 845, the Transmission Provider may require that Interconnection Customers, OASIS site users, and password-protected website users sign a confidentiality agreement before the release of commercially sensitive information or Critical Energy Infrastructure Information in the Base Case data.

Pursuant to this framework, Tri-State makes network model data used during the most recent interconnection study available to requesters who have a need for the information. In order to submit a request to access this data, please go to Tri-State's OASIS site (<https://www.oasis.oati.com/tsgt/index.html>), scroll to the blue header stating "Network Model Data Access Request", and click on the link to request access to the Tri-State "Network Model Data."

This will bring up the form needed to request access to Tri-State's network model data. The requester must fill out the form and answer each of the questions listed in the Statement of Need section in order to obtain access. Once access is approved, the data may be accessed at: <https://www.tristate.coop/tri-state-network-model-data-login>.