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Bulk Grid Interconnection: Status & Improvements

Integrated Energy Policy Report
Commissioner Workshop on Interconnection and Energization
August 11, 2025

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California Public
Utilities Commission

Coordination of Resource & Transmission Planning

Supported by CEC/CPUC/CAISO 2022 Memorandum of Understanding



CEC forecasts electricity demand

- Integrated Energy Policy Report load forecast used in IRP and TPP

CPUC's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) identifies future resource mix

- In accordance with a [December 2022 MOU](#) between the CAISO, CPUC, and CEC, the CPUC develops resource portfolios used by the CAISO in its annual Transmission Planning Process (TPP)
- The CPUC annually transmits multiple distinct portfolios developed in the IRP process (usually each February):
 - Reliability and Policy-Driven Base Case portfolio
 - Policy-Driven Sensitivity portfolio(s)

CAISO's Transmission Planning Process (TPP) assesses future transmission needs

- Reliability and Policy-Driven Base Case portfolio
 - Identified transmission solutions go to the CAISO Board of Governors for approval
- Policy-Driven Sensitivity portfolio(s)
 - Identified transmission solutions can inform the sizing of transmission solutions for the base case.
- Results feed back and inform future IRP work

Siting & permitting

Interconnection

Power marketing

Construction

Resource Development and Procurement focused in areas where transmission capacity exists or is being developed

- CAISO interconnection processes prioritizes projects in zones targeted for transmission upgrades
- CAISO recommends review of resource plans yields transmission capacity in the best zones for upgrades & expansion

CPUC Updated Regulations for Permitting Transmission: General Order (GO) 131-E



- **Significant Regulatory Update in January 2025 (CPUC Decision 25-01-055)**
 - GO 131-E provides updated rules for permitting electric transmission facilities proposed by electric public utilities, including transmission and sub-transmission lines, substations, and switching stations
- **Purpose of Regulation Revisions**
 - New rules are expected to accelerate transmission permitting timelines, including the CEQA processes associated with permitting
 - Significant modernization of rules, includes shifting environmental review earlier in the process and reducing permitting requirements for smaller projects (including upgrades and expansions of existing infrastructure)
- **Adopted Various Streamlining Measures**
 - Applicant-prepared administrative draft versions of CEQA documents
 - Clarification of permit exemptions and definitions
 - Permit to construct (PTC) exemption “e” enables more effective use of CEQA documents prepared by other agencies, e.g., local agencies or CEC via the opt-in certification process (see GO 131-E Section III.B.2.e)

GO 131-E Pilot Program

- Established to investigate ways to accelerate existing CEQA processes for transmission projects
- Workshop on Aug 21 will cover proposed metrics to be tracked in the pilot program.
- CPUC will report results of Pilot Program every 2 years starting December 1, 2026.

CPUC's Transmission Project Review (TPR) Process



- **CPUC Role in Transmission Rates**
 - CPUC represents California ratepayer interests in FERC Transmission Owner Rate cases
 - Since 2020, California's transmission stakeholder processes have yielded over \$1 Billion in long-term ratepayer savings.
- **Transmission Project Review Process**
 - Authorized under CPUC Resolution E-5252, the [TPR Process](#) is a single, unified transmission stakeholder process for California's three investor-owned utilities, under CPUC authority.
 - TPR supports CPUC and stakeholder review of and feedback on the IOUs' FERC jurisdictional capital transmission projects and network upgrades.
- **TPR Cycles Provide Learnings** (PG&E: November & May; SCE: December & June; SDG&E: January and July)
 - Robust data releases, procedures, and authorization documents related to IOUs' transmission projects, including CAISO TPP projects and generator interconnection-related network upgrades;
 - Three data request periods, and a final formal comment period;
 - Required Stakeholder meetings to discuss issues related to specific projects, project categories, and procedures.

❖ Please direct TPR inquiries to: TPRprocess@cpuc.ca.gov

- # Expected CPUC Permitting Types
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- Sankey diagram illustrating the flow of 715 Total Projects into various CPUC Permitting Types.
- Total Projects: 715**
- Project Categories:**
- non-CAISO approved projects: 575
 - CAISO approved projects: 140
- Permitting Types and Counts:**
- Exempt/NA: 378
 - TBD: 248
 - NOC AL: 65
 - PTC: 17
 - CPCN: 7
- Flow Details:**
- From non-CAISO approved projects (575):
 - Exempt/NA: 339
 - TBD: 180
 - NOC AL: 47
 - PTC: 8
 - CPCN: 6
 - From CAISO approved projects (140):
 - Exempt/NA: 39
 - TBD: 68
 - NOC AL: 18
 - PTC: 9
 - CPCN: 1

Source: CPUC Staff Transmission Project Review Data as of 3/1/2025
with updates from CEQA team

Transmission System Assessment Pursuant to SB 1174

Review of Transmission Delays and Impacts on Generator Interconnection



Assessment Objectives

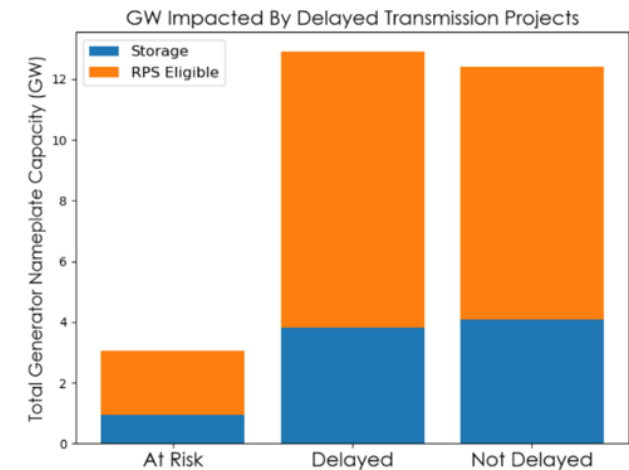
- Identify how many gigawatts of generation and storage resources are projected to be delayed or “at risk” of becoming delayed due to delayed transmission projects that these resources depend on.
- Identify specific transmission projects of concern (that are holding up the largest number of GW of resources).
- Understand key reasons for project delays and the median delay times for each delay reason.

Outcome of 2024 Assessment

- Identified delayed "High impact" transmission projects putting multiple GW of in-development renewable and storage resources at risk of delay.
- Identified key reasons for delay for transmission projects impacting the largest number of in-development resources, and median delay times for each delay reason.
- Elevated "High impact" projects and reasons for delay with IOUs, in conjunction with CPUC's TPR process and TED Task force.
- Included information in [2024 RPS Report](#)¹ and [4/9/2025 Transmission Development Forum Presentation by CPUC staff](#)²

Status of 2025 Assessment

- Data template improvements to refine reasons for delay and get better information on project permitting.
- Data received in July; will be included in 2025 RPS Report.



2024 Assessment Results: In-development resources impacted by Transmission project delays



Key Resource Links



Integrated Resource Planning

www.cpuc.ca.gov/irp (See Resource and Transmission Development)

Transmission Project Review Process

www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/electric-costs/transmission-project-review-process

Transmission Permitting and General Order 131-E

www.cpuc.ca.gov/ceqa

Renewable Portfolio Standard Reporting (including SB1174 data)

www.cpuc.ca.gov/rps (See Legislative Reports and Data)