



2.7 Evaluation of Operational Performance Issues

As per Schedule 6, section 1.5 of the PJM Operating Agreement, PJM is required to address operational performance issues and include system enhancements, as may be appropriate, to adequately address identified problems. To fulfill this obligation, PJM Transmission Planning staff and Operations Planning staff annually review actual operating results to assess the need for transmission upgrades that would address identified issues. Typical operating areas of interest in these reviews include Transmission Loading Relief (TLR) ~~and~~, Post Contingency Local Load Relief Warning (PCLLRW) events, and historical uplift payments.

The first operational performance issue to be addressed through the RTEP was an upgrade of the Wylie Ridge 500/345 kV transformation. The metric applied to designate Wylie Ridge an operational performance issue was the TLR metric. This same metric is applied consistently across the PJM footprint.

In addition, PJM has also developed and initiated use of a tool for Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) of transmission infrastructure. PJM's 500/230 kV transformer infrastructure has been identified as particularly suited for assessment using this tool. PRA is further discussed in following sections.

2.7.1 Operational Performance Metrics

Events and metrics considered in the annual operational performance reviews are not limited to a specifically defined list and will be responsive to events and conditions that may arise. In addition, PJM stakeholders may raise operational issues to PJM's attention for consideration during the RTEP process through interactions with the Planning, TEAC or Subregional RTEP Committees.

The PJM TLR metric identifies facilities that result in over 1,000 hours or 100 occurrences of TLR level 3 or higher on an annual basis. These facilities will be evaluated through the RTEP process for system enhancement.

For PCLLRW events, PJM will review all such events after the conclusion of the peak season. The initiating facilities will be determined and the expected impacts of planned RTEP upgrades will be reviewed and the need for additional planned upgrades will be evaluated.

For uplift payments, PJM will annually review the historical uplift payments and the system condition or driver for the payment. PJM will assess the impact of planned RTEP upgrades on the drivers for the uplift and the need for additional planned upgrades will be evaluated. The evaluation of the need for additional upgrades will consider the frequency and amount of the uplift payment as well as any outage or short term system conditions that may have caused the uplift.

PRA evaluation uses an economic analysis of the cost of the investment that mitigates a risk and the dollar value of the avoided risk. The mitigation strategy cost, prime rate and payback period are used to determine if the strategy cost is less than the value of risk. Projects with lower cost than risk are candidates for the RTEP.



2.7.2 Probabilistic Risk Assessment of PJM 500/230 kV Transformers

One significant element of PJM's operational performance reviews involves a risk evaluation aimed at anticipating significant transmission loss events. PJM integrates aging infrastructure decisions into the ongoing RTEP process: analysis, plan development, stakeholder review, PJM Board approval, and implementation, over PJM's entire footprint. Thus, the aging infrastructure initiative implements a proactive, PJM-wide approach to assess the risk of transmission facility loss and to mitigate operational and market impacts of such losses.

PRA's initial implementation at PJM is a risk management tool employed to reduce the potential economic and reliability consequences of transmission system equipment losses. In collaboration with academia, vendors and member TOs, PJM integrated various input drivers into a transformer PRA initiative to manage 500/230 kV transformer risk. In the case of the 500/230 kV transformers, risk is the product of the probability of incurring a loss and the economic consequence of the loss. Probability of loss is determined based on the individual transformer unit's condition assessments and vintage history. Economic loss impact is based upon the duration of the loss and the accumulation of unhedgeable congestion costs, or the increased cost of running out of merit generation to meet load requirements after a transformer loss. If lead times for 500/.230 kV transformer units are as great as eighteen months, then outage durations can be long if adequate loss mitigation is not in place. The PRA outputs the annual risk to the PJM system of each transformer unit in terms of dollars. The annual risk dollars are then used to justify mitigating solutions such as redundant bank deployment, proactive replacement or adding spares. The deployment strategy chosen will depend on the level of risk mitigation and reliability benefit.

While initially developed for aging 500/230 kV transformers, the PRA tool is capable of assessing other equipment types and other transformer voltage classes. The PRA tool is commercially available software.