STATE of INDIANA

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Request for Stakeholder Comments for the IURC's Advanced Transmission Technologies Study

As you may be aware, Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 422 from the 2025 legislative session requires the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission" or "IURC") to conduct a study on advanced transmission technologies ("ATTs"). The Commission is requesting your input, comments, ideas, research, and any relevant information you would like to provide, including regarding the following from Indiana Code § 8-1-8.5-14. **The first round of comments is due no later than June 3, 2026.**

1) The potential use or deployment of ATTs by public utilities to enable those utilities to:
   a) safely, reliably, efficiently, and cost effectively meet electric system demand; and
   b) provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric utility service to customers?

CEI South Response: CenterPoint Indiana agrees with this assessment.

2) The attributes, functions, costs, and benefits of various ATTs, including grid enhancing technologies and advanced conductors.

CEI South Response: CenterPoint Indiana sees general benefits from deploying Static VAR Compensators (SVCs), Static Synchronous Compensators (STATCOMs), and Synchronous Condensers due to their role in supplying dynamic vars and supporting overall system strength. STATCOMs provide the additional benefit of harmonic filtering. These devices reduce the reactive power needs from local generation sources, which increases system efficiency and supports local voltage levels.

Advanced conductors generally provide higher capacity by limiting wire sag at high operating temperatures using advanced materials. This makes such conductors more expensive than traditional conductors, and their increased cost must be offset by savings in land rights acquisition to be worth installing. This is best achieved by deploying advanced conductors in existing transmission right of way corridors where higher capacity is needed. In some cases, these conductors can replace traditional conductors on existing structures with little or no modifications. Overall, where new, additional traditional transmission lines can be avoided, there will be cost savings; however, consideration must be given in planning studies to ensure concentrating power into existing right of way corridors does not lead to post contingent overloads if such a line is taken out of service.

Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) technology provides utilities with real-time transmission line information to determine line ratings. This requires remote monitoring of wind speed, ambient temperature, possibly conductor sag sensors, and other environmental sensor data. These inputs are used in conjunction with operational monitoring software to determine the "real time" capacity of a transmission line. This technology provides the most detailed analysis of transmission capacity and is most useful on congested and/or critical transmission lines. The monitoring sensors and software deployment for such a system is costly to deploy and to maintain.

3) Whether each particular technology does the following:
   a) Increases transmission capacity.
   b) Increases transmission efficiency.
   c) Reduces transmission congestion.
   d) Reduces the curtailment of generation resources.
   e) Increases system reliability.
   f) Increases system resiliency?
   g) Increases the capacity to connect new energy generation resources.

CEI South Response:

SVCs, STATCOMs, and Synchronous Condensers

a) Yes

b) Yes

c) Possibly, contingent upon system configuration and study

d) Possibly, contingent upon system configuration and study

e) Possibly, contingent upon system configuration and study

f) Possibly, contingent upon system configuration and study

g) Possibly, contingent upon system configuration and study

Advanced Line Conductors

a) Yes

b) Yes

c) Yes, if deployed strategically

d) Possibly, contingent upon system configuration and study

e) Possibly

f) No

g) Yes, if deployed strategically

Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) Technology

a) Yes

b) Yes

c) Yes, up to a point. DLR will allow existing facilities to operate at the minimum margin using real time data.

d) DLR could assist with real time assessment for grid operators to make better decisions regarding generation curtailment

e) Yes. DLR provides real time monitoring of line sag conditions. This would be beneficial to avoid overloads on transmission lines, which have historically resulted in unplanned outages.

f) No

g) Possibly.

4) What is the potential of each ATT to be used or be deployed by public utilities to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric utility service to customers in Indiana, considering existing and planned transmission infrastructure and projected demand growth?

CEI South Response: All technologies for enhancing the electric grid have potential for use in Indiana. CEI South considers all available technologies when planning for future growth and reliability improvements in our system.

5) What potential reductions in project costs and project completion deadlines can be furthered by ATTs compared to traditional transmission infrastructure?

CEI South Response: Advanced conductors could potentially provide cost reductions and timeline improvements when compared to constructing new traditional infrastructure. This could be accomplished by using existing transmission right of way corridors, which would reduce land cost and acquisition time. If existing transmission structures/towers are suitable for supporting the advanced conductors, additional cost reduction can be achieved by re-using existing structures.

6) What are potential ways to streamline the deployment of ATTs, including streamlined processes for permitting, maintenance, and upgrades?

CEI South Response: The deployment of ATTs is an option for mitigation during the planning process. ATTs are considered during the planning process along with more traditional mitigations where asset management, design and material standardization, and long-term reliability are evaluated when determining the most economical solution.

7) Are there any other aspects of ATTs that can assist the IURC to understand the potential role of ATTs in Indiana?

CEI South Response: No further comments.