

# Transmission Planning Process Guide Solution Development, Rev. 1

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- *Listing of Approved QTPSs*
- *Solution Development*

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# Purpose

- Provide notice of the location of an “approved QTPS” listing on the ISO-NE website
- Present a summary of updates to the Transmission Planning Process Guide (the Guide) to address the:
  - Selection of the Solutions process
  - Solutions Study process changes
  - New Competitive Solutions process

# LISTING OF APPROVED QTPSs



# Listing of Approved QTPSs

- In addition to any filed Appendix 3 to Attachment K, you can now find a list of all approved QTPSs posted on the ISO external web in the [Qualified Transmission Project Sponsor Application and Annual Certification](#) page<sup>1</sup>
- See and click on the following highlighted text within that page
  - “A list of QTPSs can be found in Appendix 3 to Attachment K of the OATT and in the [current inventory of QTPSs](#).”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup><http://www.iso-ne.com/participate/applications-status-changes/qtps-application-annual-certification>

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/2016/03/current\\_qtps\\_inventory.docx](http://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/2016/03/current_qtps_inventory.docx)

# SELECTION OF THE SOLUTIONS PROCESS

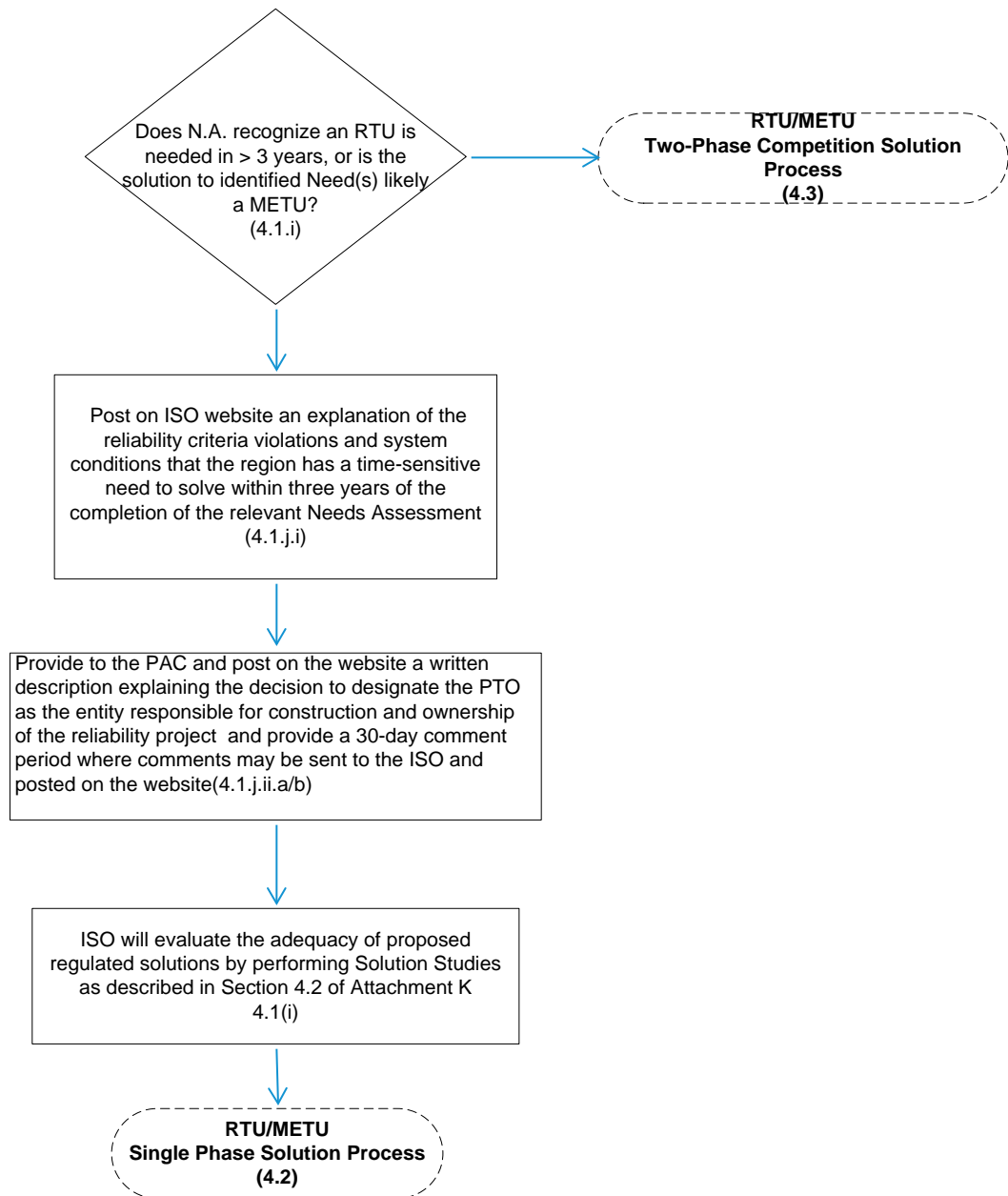


# Selection of the Solutions Process

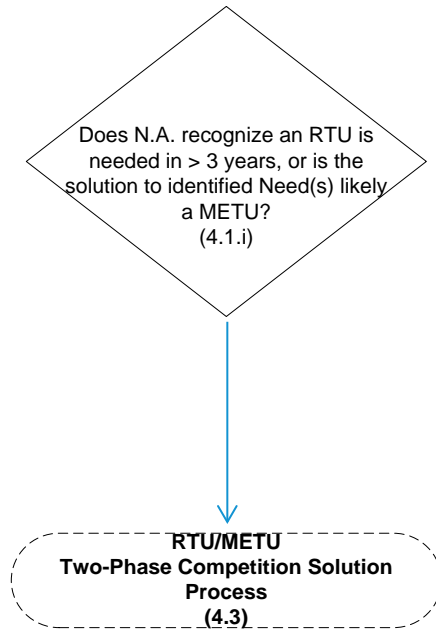
- At the conclusion of a Needs Assessment, where needs have been identified, a decision must be made with regard to developing regulated transmission upgrades (solutions) to resolve the needs
- The development of the solution(s) shall be accomplished by either the Solutions Study process or the Competitive Solution process
- The initial determining factor is based on the time sensitivity of each need in the Needs Assessment



# Selection Process



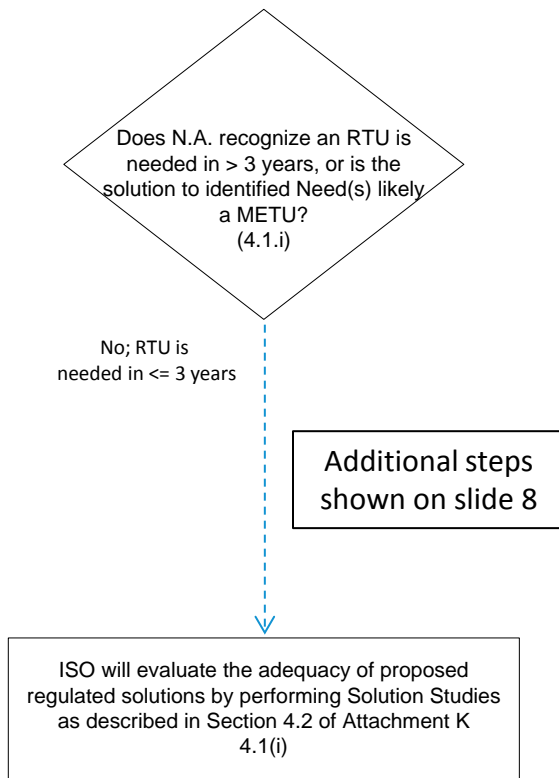
# The Decision – Competitive Solutions Process



- If a solution is required to solve a need greater than three years from the time the Needs Assessment is completed , then the Competitive Solution process is utilized to develop and select the solution
- If a Market Efficiency Transmission Upgrade (METU) is likely to be the solution for a need, then the Competitive Solution process shall be followed regardless of the year of need



# The Decision – Solutions Study Process



- If a solution is required to solve a need in three years or less from the time the Needs Assessment is completed, and the solution is not likely to be a METU, then the Solutions Study process is utilized to develop and select the solution

# The Decision – Solutions Study Process

- ISO will communicate the following to PAC:
  - an explanation of the reliability criteria violations and system conditions that generated the needs,
  - time sensitivity of each need,
  - an explanation of other transmission or non-transmission options considered to address the identified reliability needs, and
  - the circumstances that generated the reliability need, and an explanation of why the reliability need was not identified earlier
- The ISO shall present the material above at a PAC meeting and will post the related presentation to the ISO website
- The stakeholders will be given thirty days to submit comments on the posted material, and all comments received will be posted to the ISO website

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graph TD; A[Post on ISO website an explanation of the reliability criteria violations and system conditions that the region has a time-sensitive need to solve within three years of the completion of the relevant Needs Assessment (4.1.j.i)] --> B[Provide to the PAC and post on the website a written description explaining the decision to designate the PTO as the entity responsible for construction and ownership of the reliability project and provide a 30-day comment period where comments may be sent to the ISO and posted on the website(4.1.j.ii.a/b)];
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Post on ISO website an explanation of the reliability criteria violations and system conditions that the region has a time-sensitive need to solve within three years of the completion of the relevant Needs Assessment (4.1.j.i)

Provide to the PAC and post on the website a written description explaining the decision to designate the PTO as the entity responsible for construction and ownership of the reliability project and provide a 30-day comment period where comments may be sent to the ISO and posted on the website(4.1.j.ii.a/b)

# SOLUTIONS STUDY PROCESS



# Solutions Study Process

- The ISO will lead the Solutions Study development process
- The process for performing a Solutions Study includes:
  - Provision of study scope information to PAC,
  - Presentation of preliminary preferred solution to PAC,
  - Identification of final preferred solution to PAC, and
  - Drafting of a Solutions Study report
- During this process, the ISO may form ISO-led study groups to conduct Solutions Studies
  - The ISO-led study group is responsible for conducting the solution development and assessment
  - The results of the ISO-led solutions development process will be discussed with PAC and be reflected in the RSP and /or its Project List

# Solutions Study Process

## RTU/METU Single Phase Solution Process (4.2)

ISO provides scope information to PAC and, if needed, posts scope document for PAC review (4.2.b)

ISO may form ISO-led targeted study groups to conduct Solutions Studies (4.2.a)

Perform Studies

Proponents of regulated transmission proposals in response to Needs Assessments shall also identify any LSP plans that require coordination with their regulated transmission proposals addressing the PTF system needs. (4.2.a)

Discussion with PAC for feedback on solution alternatives and preliminary preferred solution

Post the draft Solutions Study Report for a comment

Publish final Solutions Study Report and responses to comments received

Inform the appropriate TO in writing regarding the identification of the preferred solution (4.2.d)

Incorporate into RSP and/or its Project List as Proposed and detail any external impacts (4.2.d)

Project receives I.3.9 approval by RC and ISO and moves to Planned Status

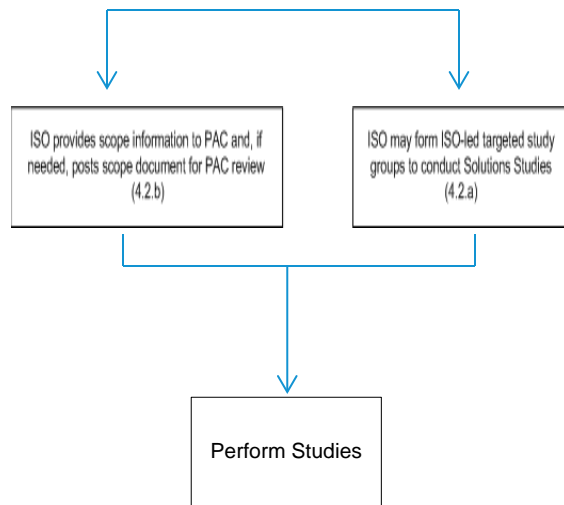
Are there any needs identified in the Needs Assessment as greater than three years left?

Remaining needs go back to a Section 4.1 and are part of a new Needs Assessment

Proceed with Project



# Solutions Study Process



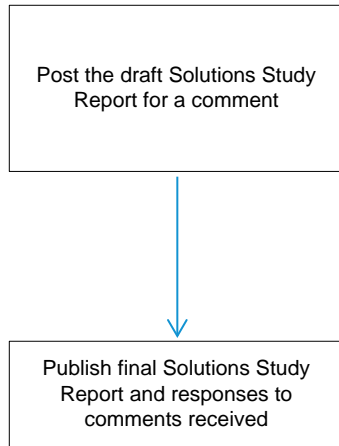
- The ISO will provide notice of the initiation of the Solutions Study to PAC in the form of an e-mail notification or presentation
- A Solutions Study scope document will not be provided to PAC in cases where the scope is the same as the study conditions and assumptions of the Needs Assessment which has already been vetted through the PAC process
- The ISO may form ISO-led targeted study groups to conduct Solutions Studies
- The study group will perform studies to develop regulated solution alternatives

# Solutions Study Process

Discussion with PAC for feedback on solution alternatives and preliminary preferred solution

- As the Solutions Study progresses, transmission alternatives will be discussed with PAC
- PAC will have the opportunity to comment on the alternatives
- The ISO will determine the “preliminary preferred solution”
- PAC and other interested stakeholders are given the opportunity to comment on the preliminary preferred transmission solution

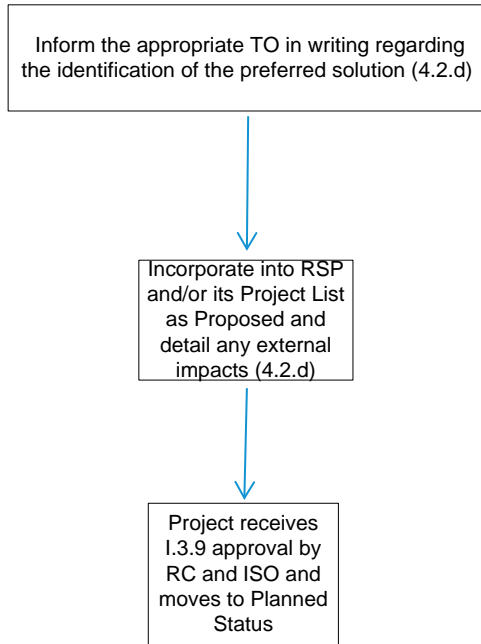
# Solutions Study Process



- Upon completion of the Solutions Study analysis, the ISO will publish a draft study report which identifies the preferred solution
- The Solutions Study report will be posted on the ISO website in the related Key Study Area subsection to the System Planning area of the ISO website for a stakeholder comment period
  - Comments must be submitted to [PACmatters@iso-ne.com](mailto:PACmatters@iso-ne.com)
- The ISO will publish the final Solutions Study report on its website

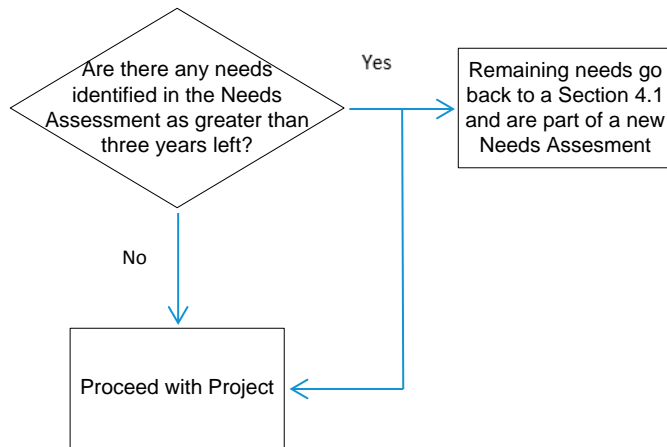


# Solutions Study Process



- The ISO will inform the appropriate Transmission Owner or Owners in writing regarding the identification of the preferred solution
- The preferred solution will be reflected in the RSP and/or its RSP Project List
- The proponent of the preferred solution will need to comply with the Proposed Plan Application process set out in Section I.3.9 of the ISO Tariff to ensure that there is no material adverse impact to the system as a result of the transmission plan

# Solutions Study Process



- If needs identified in the Needs Assessment with a year of need greater than three years from the completion of the Needs Assessment are still unsolved, then a new Needs Assessment will begin to determine the expected year of need for the remaining needs

# COMPETITIVE SOLUTIONS PROCESS

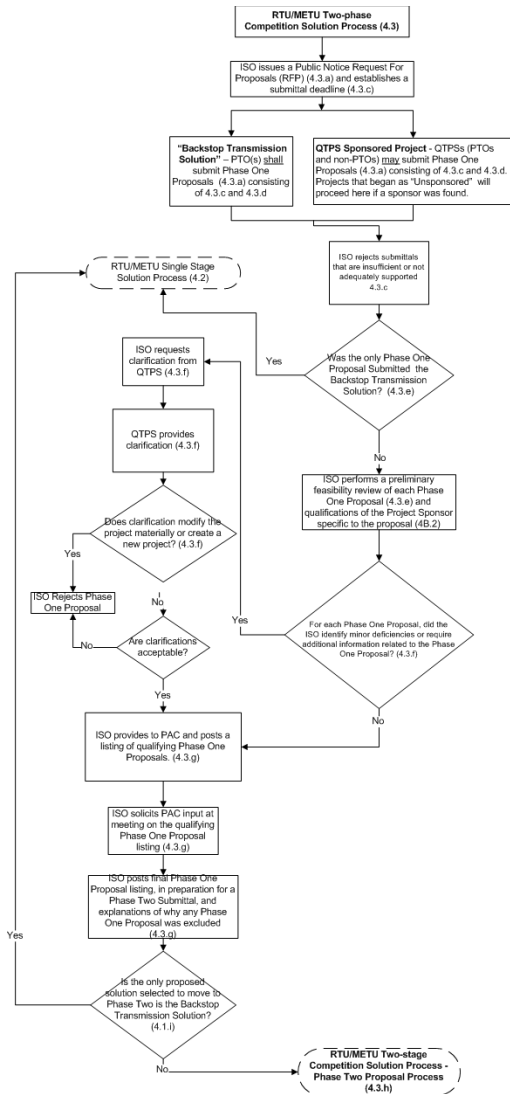


# Competitive Solutions Process

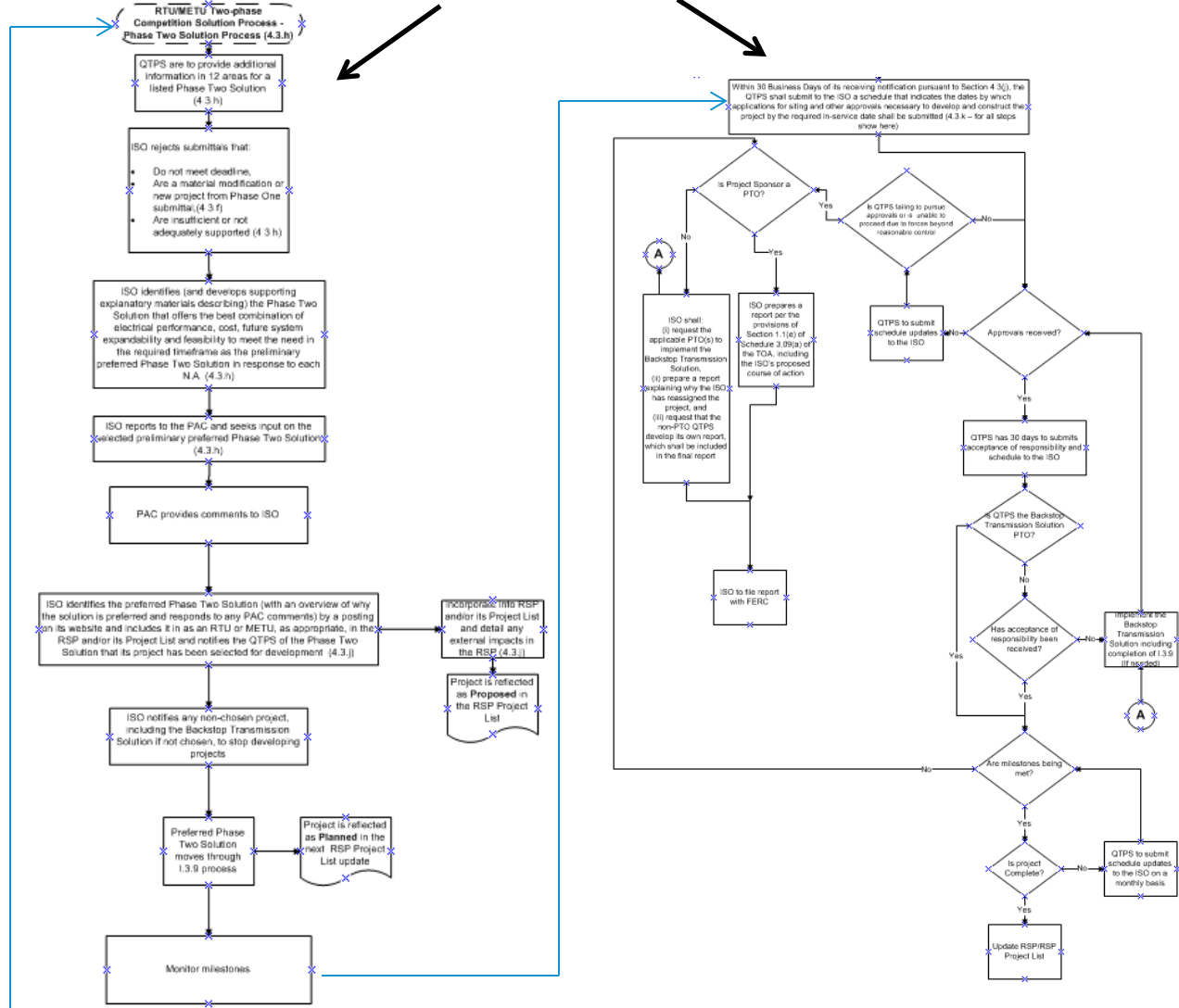
- Qualified Transmission Provider Sponsor(s) (QTPS) will be allowed to submit proposals for projects to meet the needs identified in the Needs Assessment in the required time frame
- The general steps for the Competitive Solution process shall include:
  - ISO issuing a public notice Request For Proposal (RFP)
  - ISO review of all submitted Phase One Proposals and the Backstop Transmission Solution
  - Advancement of Qualifying Phase One proposals as Phase Two Solutions where more detailed information will be provided by the QTPS
  - ISO review of all submitted Phase Two Solutions and selection of a preliminary Preferred Solution
  - Opportunity for PAC to comment on the preliminary Preferred Solution
  - ISO determination of the Preferred Solution and notification to the respective QTPS that its project was selected for development and notification for all other QTPS's to stop work on their proposals

# Competitive Solutions Process

## Phase One Proposal



## Phase Two Solution

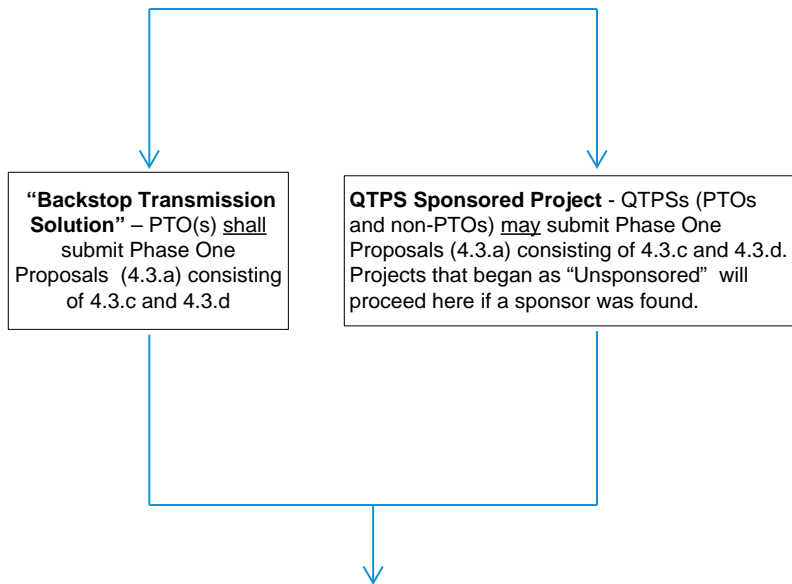


# Competitive Solutions Process – Phase One Proposal

ISO issues a public notice (4.3.a) and establishes a submittal deadline (4.3.c)

- The ISO will issue a public notice associated with a Needs Assessment where a competitive solution process will be utilized
- The public notice Request For Proposals will be published to the ISO webpage under PAC Materials and an email notification will be sent to all members of the PAC and will include a submittal deadline for all QTPS Phase One Proposals
- A member of the PAC that is not a QTPS but would like a project to be considered in a competitive solution process must identify a QTPS willing to submit a corresponding Phase One Proposal and Phase Two Solution before the submission deadline

# Competitive Solutions Process – Phase One Proposal



- A QTPS may submit a Phase One Proposal in response to a public notice RFP that will address the identified needs
- A transmission owner, or multiple transmission owners, shall submit a Phase One Proposal as a Backstop Transmission Solution for any need that would be solved by a project located within or connecting to its/their existing electrical system and which there is obligation to build

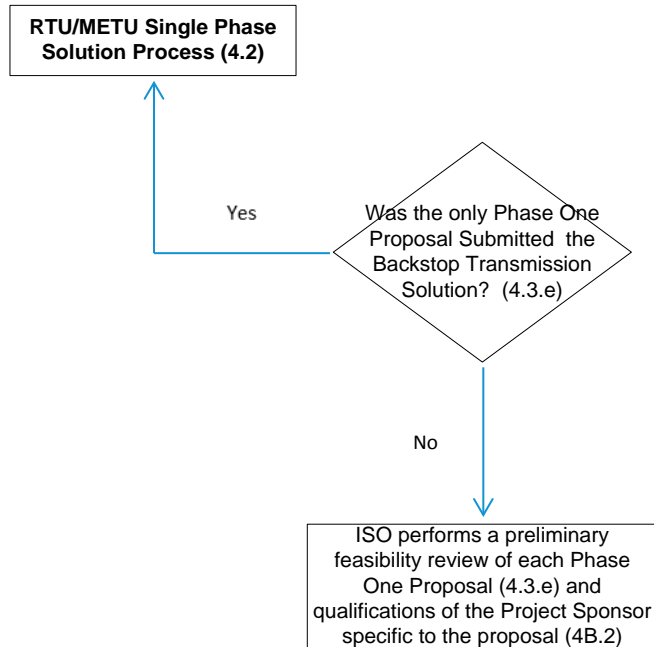
# Competitive Solutions Process – Phase One Proposal

ISO rejects submittals  
that are insufficient or not  
adequately supported  
4.3.c

- With each proposal a QTPS, including the Backstop Transmission Provider(s), must include a \$100,000 study deposit payment per submitted proposal. The deposit will be applied towards the costs incurred by the ISO associated with the study of the Phase One and/or Phase Two proposal
- A Phase One Proposal shall be submitted by the deadline specified in the public notice RFP posting
- The ISO may reject the proposal for being insufficient or not adequately supported



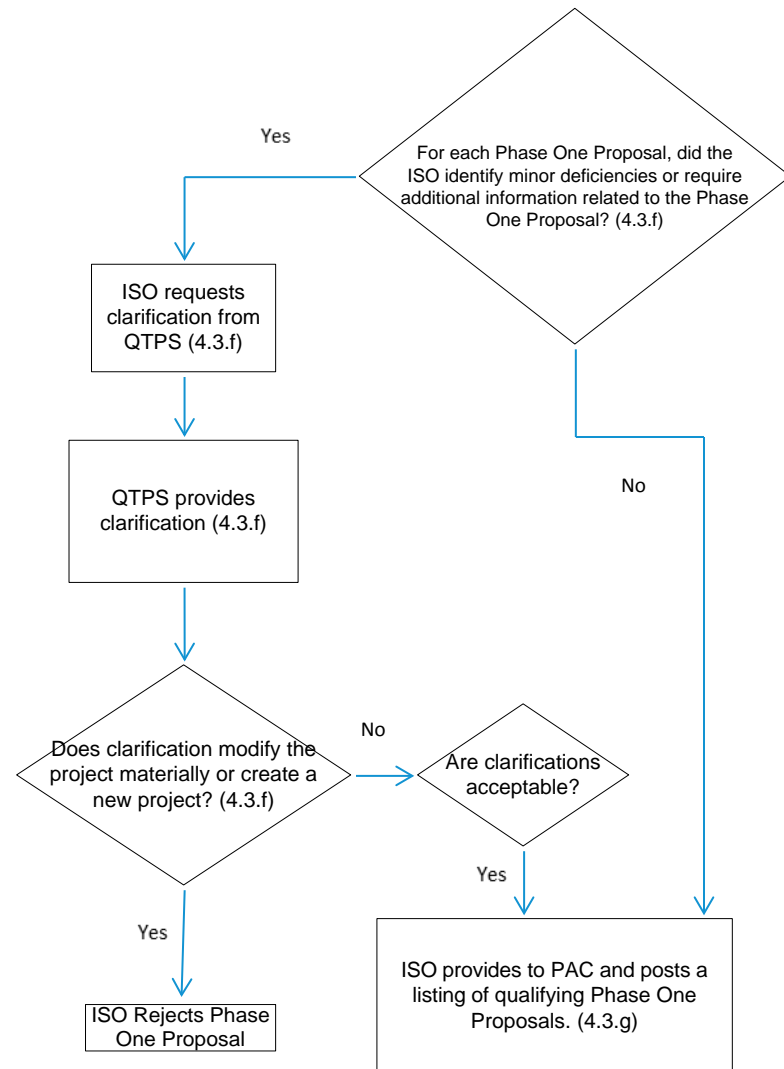
# Competitive Solutions Process – Phase One Proposal



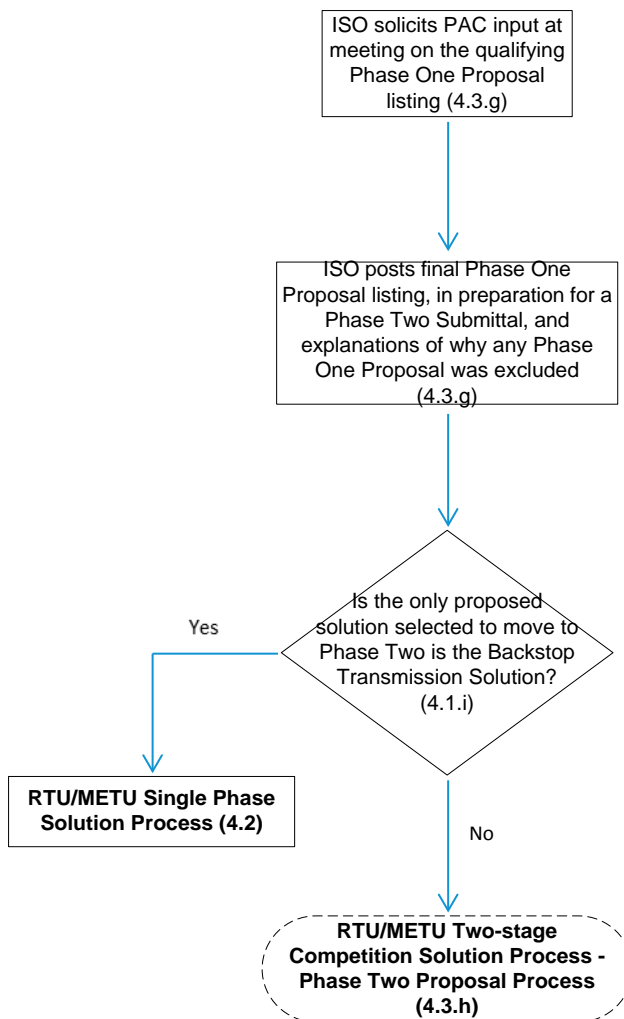
- The ISO will perform preliminary review on all submissions received to a public notification RFP
  - If the only submission received is that of the Backstop Transmission Solution the process will then proceed under the Solutions Study
  - Where there are multiple responses to the public notice RFP, the ISO will perform a preliminary feasibility review for each proposal
  - If a proposal does not adequately meet the required criteria it will be rejected

# Competitive Solutions Process – Phase One Proposal

- ISO will notify a QTPS if deficiencies are identified in its Phase One Proposal
- ISO will reject a Phase One Proposal if:
  - Clarifications are not deemed to be adequate or are not received in the specified timeframe
  - The proposal is materially changed or is new
- Phase One Proposals deemed to be acceptable will be included in the list of qualifying Phase One Proposals



# Competitive Solutions Process – Phase One Proposal



- The ISO will post to its website and provide to PAC a listing of all Phase One Proposals that meet the criteria
- A PAC meeting will be held to solicit stakeholder input on the listing and proposals
- The ISO, with input from the PAC, may exclude projects from the listing and from submitting a Phase Two Proposal based on a determination that a project is not competitive with other projects that have been submitted
- The ISO will create and post a final listing of Phase One Proposals that can move to propose a Phase Two Solution and will provide information on why it has excluded a proposal from consideration in Phase Two
- If the only proposal on the final listing of qualified Phase One Proposals is the Backstop Transmission Solution, the process will then proceed under the Solutions Study process
- The final listing will also include the submission deadline for a Phase Two Solution

# Competitive Solutions Process – Phase Two Solution

QTPS are to provide additional information in 12 areas for a listed Phase Two Solution (4.3.h)



ISO rejects submittals that:

- Are a material modification or new project from Phase One submittal, (4.3.f)
- Are insufficient or not adequately supported (4.3.h)

- A QTPS that has a project listed on the final listing of Phase One Proposals, is eligible to submit a Phase Two Solution
- A Phase Two Solution submittal will not be accepted if
  - It is submitted outside the submission deadline as specified by the ISO in the final listing of Phase One Proposals
  - It is a material modification or new project from a Phase One Proposal
  - It is insufficient and not adequately supported

# Competitive Solutions Process – Phase Two Solution

ISO identifies (and develops supporting explanatory materials describing) the Phase Two Solution that offers the best combination of electrical performance, cost, future system expandability and feasibility to meet the need in the required timeframe as the preliminary preferred Phase Two Solution in response to each N.A. (4.3.h)

ISO reports to the PAC and seeks input on the selected preliminary preferred Phase Two Solution (4.3.h)

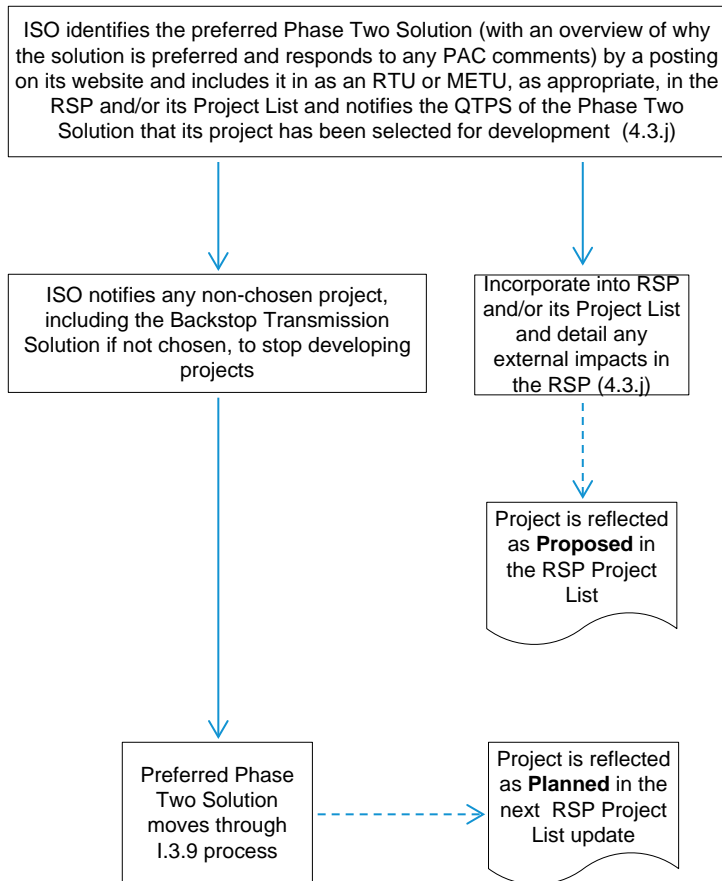
PAC provides comments to ISO

- The ISO will review and study all of the Phase Two Solutions that are received
- During this review the ISO will identify the preliminary preferred Phase Two Solution
- The ISO will document and post the reasons why this Phase Two Solution was chosen as the preliminary preferred Phase Two Solution and will seek PAC input during a comment period on the selection

# Competitive Solutions Process – Phase Two Solution

- ISO will:

- Identify and post to its website the preferred Phase Two Solution and a description of why it is the preferred Phase Two Solution
- Notify the QTPS of the selected Phase Two Solution in writing that its project has been selected for development
- Notify all non-selected QTPS's in writing to cease development of their solution including the Backstop Transmission Solution
- Reflect the preferred Phase Two Solution in the RSP and /or its Project List



# Competitive Solutions Process – Phase Two Solution

- Once a QTPS has received notification that its project was selected for development they shall:
  - Submit to the ISO a schedule that indicates the dates by which applications for siting and other approvals shall be submitted
  - Periodically update the schedule above and provided it to the ISO
- Once a QTPS has received all siting and other approvals for its project they shall:
  - Submit its acceptance of responsibility and provide the ISO a schedule when typical project construction phase will be complete
  - Submit monthly updates on the project schedule until the project is placed in service
- Once the project is complete and in service, the ISO will update the RSP and RSP Project List
- If the non-PTO QTPS is failing or is unable to proceed with the project the ISO shall request the applicable PTO(s) implement the Backstop Transmission Solution

Monitor milestones

# Next Steps

- Proposed revisions to the Guide were posted as part of the PAC materials for this meeting
- Stakeholders must provide comments by April 15, 2016 to [PACMatters@iso-ne.com](mailto:PACMatters@iso-ne.com)
- Comments will be responded to and a final update is targeted for the end of April 2016
- Future updates will be made with respect to the development of Public Policy Transmission Upgrades



# Questions

