



**INTERCONNECTION
INNOVATION e-XCHANGE**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Grid Engineering Practices & Standards Hosting Capacity on the BES | 4/26/23

An initiative spearheaded by the Solar Energy Technologies Office and the Wind Energy Technologies Office

Meeting Notes

Notes synthesizing keys points, insights and questions from the meeting can be found here: [Box Link](#)

The first half of this Teams call is being recorded and may be posted on DOE's website or used internally. If you do not wish to have your voice recorded, please do not speak during the call. If you do not wish to have your image recorded, please turn off your camera or participate by phone. If you speak during the call or use a video connection, you are presumed to consent to recording and use of your voice or image.

Recording will stop after the scheduled presentations.

Agenda

- Introduction to i2X Solution e-Xchanges (5 min)
- Summary of HCA Value from April 13 (5 min)
- Technical Presentations (45 min)
 1. MISO (Simon Guo)
 2. Enerzinx (Anupam Gopal)
 3. Pearl Street Technologies (David Bromberg)
- Interactive Group Discussion (45 min)
 1. How much time and cost could hosting capacity maps save during a BES interconnection process?
 2. What are the security concerns with publishing BES hosting capacity maps?
 3. How could utilities and system operators produce BES hosting capacity maps that provide expected benefits?
 4. What can we learn from AEMO's new Connections Simulation Tool?
- Commenting Process for BES Interconnection Study Guide (5 min)



Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange (i2X)

Mission: To enable a simpler, faster, and fairer interconnection of clean energy resources while enhancing the reliability, resiliency, and security of our distribution and bulk-power electric grids



Stakeholder Engagement

Nation-wide engagement platform and collaborative working groups



Data & Analytics

Collect and analyze interconnection data to inform solutions development



Strategic Roadmap

Create roadmap to inform interconnection process improvements



Technical Assistance

Leverage DOE laboratory expertise to support stakeholder roadmap implementation



Key Outcomes from Our e-Xchange Meetings



- Inform and formulate a **publicly available**, strategic roadmap for interconnection
 - Topical challenges and issues
 - Practical solutions to implement and scale
 - Knowledge and data gaps and new solutions to pilot
 - Success goals and measures of success
- Summary documentation for each meeting regarding ideas discussed and opportunities for targeted stakeholder action
- Provide platform for ongoing engagement before and after meetings
- **Longer term vision** → Solution e-Xchanges to continue building a national forum for all stakeholders as a community of practice, excellence, and innovation



Upcoming Solution e-Xchanges to Consider Joining

BOLDED ITEMS FOCUSED ON GRID ENGINEERING TOPICS

1. April 27th, 2-4 p.m. Eastern: DER Grid Readiness and Network Upgrades
2. **May 3rd, 2-4 p.m. Eastern: Distribution System Protection with High DER Adoption Levels**
3. May 11th, 2-4 p.m. Eastern: Managing the Bulk Power System Interconnection Study Process
4. May 24th, 2-4 p.m. Eastern: DER Interconnection Process Approaches & Flexible Interconnection
5. **August 2nd, 2-4 p.m. Eastern: Synergizing Two Cylinders of Excellence**

Follow the schedule of events on the i2X website.

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/i2x/i2x-solution-e-xchanges>

Virtual Meetings Code of Conduct



1. *Assume good faith and respect differences*
2. *Listen actively and respectfully*
3. *Use "Yes and" to build on others' ideas*
4. *Please self-edit and encourage others to speak up*
5. *Seek to learn from others*



Mutual Respect . Collaboration . Openness

Results from the April 13 Solution e-Xchange (Queue Management and Cost Allocation) on the Value of Pre-application Information



Hosting Capacity value is #2 after Expected Costs

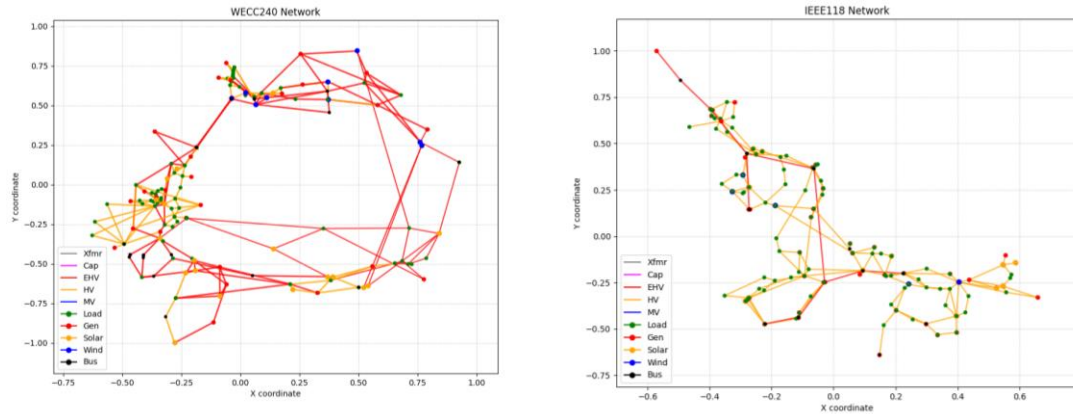


- Based on power flow
- Doesn't estimate IX cost
- Doesn't account for redispatch
- Not useful if stale
- Show Network Resource vs. Energy Resource Interconnection Service, i.e., NRIS vs. ERIS
- Useful to know where fiber communications exist

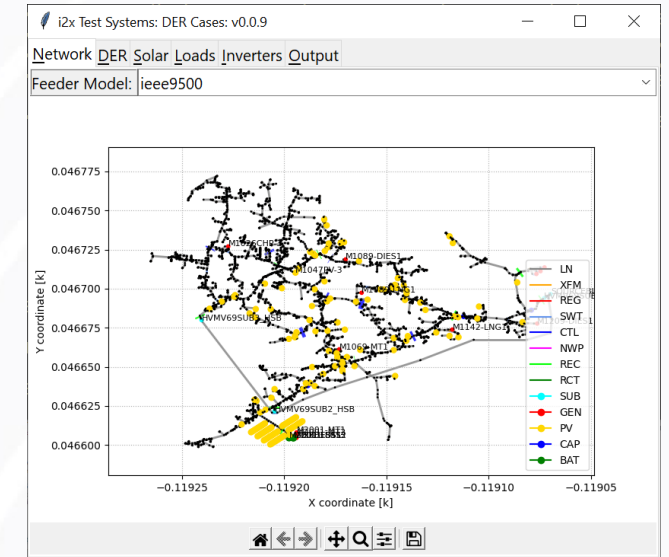
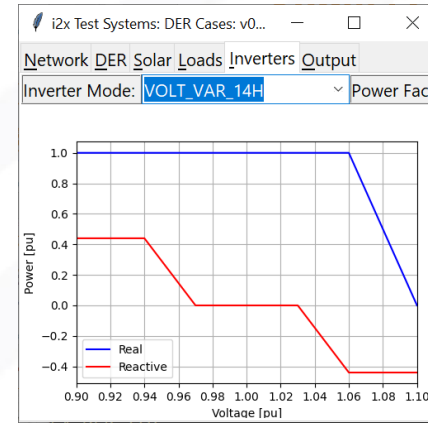
i2X has been producing test systems, documents, software tools, visualizations, and proposed new metrics for interconnections.



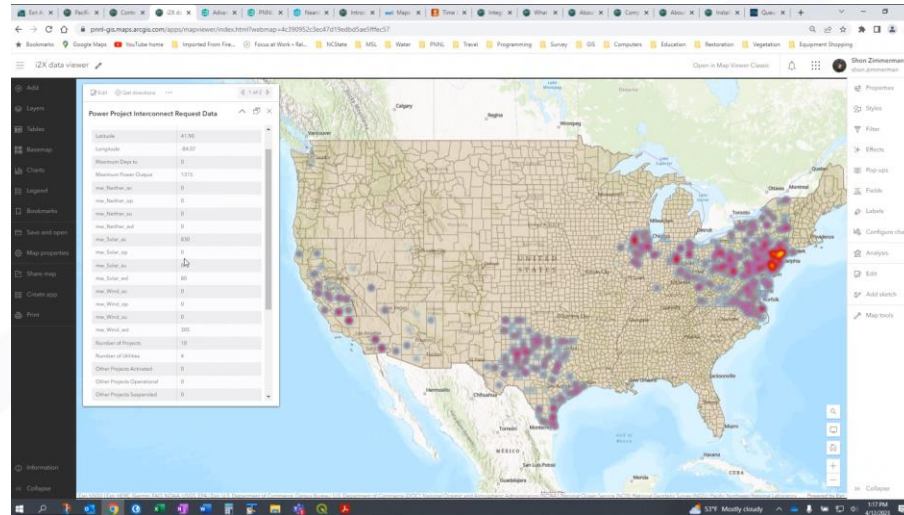
Bulk Electric Test Systems for EMT Analysis Boot Camps



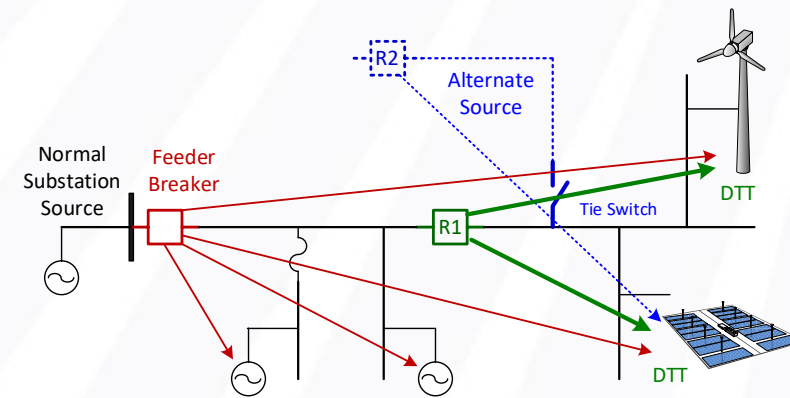
DER Analysis Tool for Boot Camps



GIS Portal for Queued Up, SolarTRACE, and Interconnection Metrics



Contributions to Study Guides and Recommended Practices



DER Hosting Capacity Analysis has a lineage of nearly 20 years on the distribution system.



- CIRED Paper, 2005: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/5427947>
- Sandia Screening Guide, 2012: <https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/1039001>
- EPRI, 2013: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/6672320>
- Natural Resources Canada, by Quanta Technology Canada, 2021:

Table 4. HCA Boundary Parameters

Commonly Applied Boundary Parameters

- Thermal limits (overloading feeder equipment or conductors),
- Voltage limits (steady state),
- Rapid voltage change (dynamic variations),
- Impact on voltage regulators and tap changers operation
- Reverse power flow

Advanced Boundary Parameters

- Protection
 - Reach reduction
 - Sympathetic tripping
- Harmonics
 - Individual harmonics
 - THD / TDD

Introduction of Stakeholder Presentations

1. Simon Guo, Resource Utilization Engineer, MISO,
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shaotong/>
2. Anupam Gopal, Founder and President, Enerzinx,
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/anupam-g-5ab5593/>
3. David Bromberg, Co-founder and CEO, Pearl Street Technologies,
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dmbromberg/>

Interactive Group Discussion Topics

Word Cloud Icebreaker:

What is the main obstacle to achieving weekly
hosting capacity map or data updates?

[Go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter event code **9815 7531**]

Topic #1: How much time and cost could hosting capacity maps or data save during a BES interconnection process?



- For written commentary, please go to **Menti.com** and enter event code **9815 7531**
 - Meeting chat will be disabled
 - The Menti page will remain open throughout discussion of this topic
- For verbal commentary, please use the raise hand feature and we will call on you
- Additional discussion points:
 - Might they encourage more applications for sites that have capacity?
 - Might they discourage applications for sites with low capacity?
 - Which components of cost and schedule would be most affected?
 - How might they affect the % of applications approved and built?

Discussion Best-Practices

1. *Assume good faith and respect differences*
2. *Listen actively and respectfully*
3. *Use "Yes and" to build on others' ideas*
4. *Please self-edit and encourage others to speak up*
5. *Seek to learn from others*

Topic #2: What are the security concerns with publishing BES hosting capacity maps or data?



- For written commentary, please go to **Menti.com** and enter event code **9815 7531**
 - Meeting chat will be disabled
 - The Menti page will remain open throughout discussion of this topic
- For verbal commentary, please use the raise hand feature and we will call on you
- Additional discussion points:
 - Has the precedent already been set by MISO, PJM, and others publishing injection capacity?
 - Is there a difference between maps and spreadsheet data?
 - What mitigations are available to protect critical energy infrastructure information (CEII)?

Discussion Best-Practices

1. *Assume good faith and respect differences*
2. *Listen actively and respectfully*
3. *Use "Yes and" to build on others' ideas*
4. *Please self-edit and encourage others to speak up*
5. *Seek to learn from others*

Topic #3: How could utilities and system operators produce BES hosting capacity maps or data that provide expected benefits?

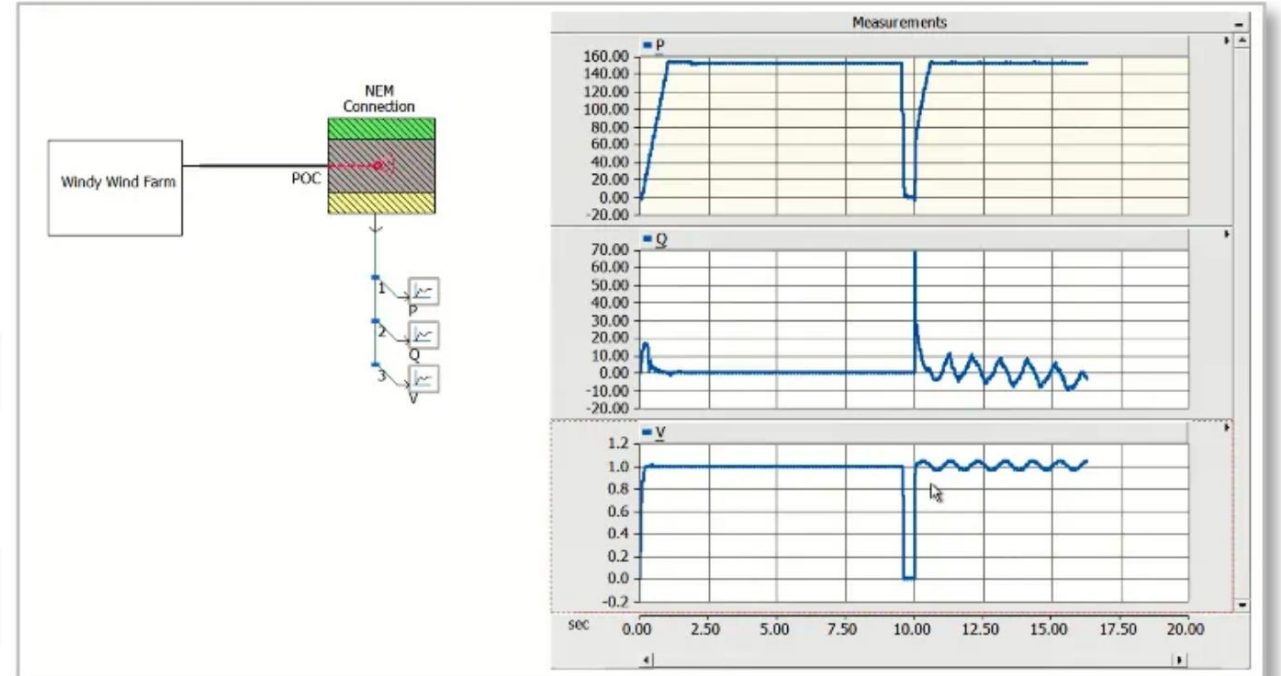
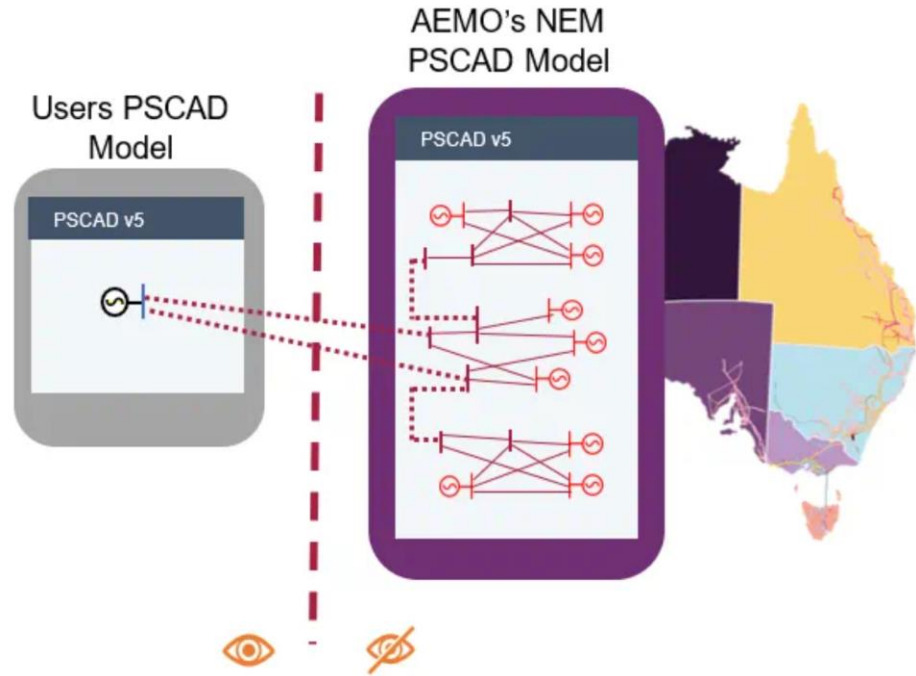


- For written commentary, please go to **Menti.com** and enter event code **9815 7531**
 - Meeting chat will be disabled
 - The Menti page will remain open throughout discussion of this topic
- For verbal commentary, please use the raise hand feature and we will call on you
- Additional discussion points:
 - How can we automate model building and model validation?
 - How can we promote consistent, transparent, and best practices? For example, case selection, mitigations considered, range of parameter variations, etc.
 - What factors would enable cost recovery for new automated analysis capabilities?
 - How can the presumed lack of engineering resources be addressed?
 - Is there enough support for scripting, cloud computing, and parallelization for all the necessary software tools? If not, how can this be achieved?

Discussion Best-Practices

1. *Assume good faith and respect differences*
2. *Listen actively and respectfully*
3. *Use "Yes and" to build on others' ideas*
4. *Please self-edit and encourage others to speak up*
5. *Seek to learn from others*

Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Connections Simulation Tool



- <https://www.aemo.com.au/energy-systems/electricity/national-electricity-market-nem/participate-in-the-market/network-connections/connections-simulation-tool>
- AEMO presented a Webinar on March 20, 2023 via the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG)

Topic #4: What can we learn from Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO's) new Connections Simulation Tool?



- For written commentary, please go to **Menti.com** and enter event code **9815 7531**
 - Meeting chat will be disabled
 - The Menti page will remain open throughout discussion of this topic
- For verbal commentary, please use the raise hand feature and we will call on you
- Additional discussion points:
 - How much burden does this place on the utility or system operator?
 - How could a trusted third party manage this service?
 - How would the software license, cloud computing, and labor costs be recovered?
 - How important is software tool independence for steady state, dynamics, and electromagnetic transients (EMT)?
 - Do we need a comparable service for power flow or positive sequence dynamics?

Discussion Best-Practices

1. *Assume good faith and respect differences*
2. *Listen actively and respectfully*
3. *Use "Yes and" to build on others' ideas*
4. *Please self-edit and encourage others to speak up*
5. *Seek to learn from others*

Guide to BES Interconnection Studies of Renewables

1. Introduction
2. Utility Organization Preparation
 - a) Tools and Automation
 - b) Maintenance of Grid Data
 - c) Link to System Planning (QM/CA e-Xchange)
 - d) Workforce Training
 - e) Adoption of Standards
 - f) Report Format and Delivery
3. Developer Organization Preparation
 - a) Plant Models and Validation
 - b) Applications to Interconnect
 - c) Adoption of Standards
 - d) Response to Data Requests
 - e) Scoping Meetings
 - f) Material Modification Studies
4. Phases of the Interconnection (depending on FERC Final Rule)
 - a) Interconnection Application Review
 - b) Feasibility Study (still used in some places?)
 - c) Informational Study
 - d) Impact Study
 - e) Facility Study
 - f) Pre-commissioning Conformity Assessment
 - g) Commissioning Tests
 - h) Post-commissioning Model Validation
 - i) Post-commissioning Monitoring
5. Special Topics
 - a) When to use EMT (coordinate with NERC EMT guides)
 - b) DER Aggregation
 - c) Hosting Capacity on the Bulk System
 - d) POI screening and SCR studies.
 - e) Affected System Studies (timeliness, disruptiveness, interaction between FERC and DER project queues)
 - f) Jurisdiction for Distribution and Sub-transmission
6. EMT Study Boot Camps (with NERC)
 - a. Test systems and tools
 - b. Sample problems
7. Forward-looking Improvements
8. References

Key:

- Suggestions made during the January 31 meeting
- Items of special importance



ENERZINX[®]

Analytics To Inform And Inspire

View



®

AUTOMATED GRID WIDE
FCITC ANALYSIS SOFTWARE



+1214-302-2463



products@enerzinx.com



Enerzinx OVERVIEW



102 GW



600+
PROJECTS



2.00 MILLION MILES OF
TRANSMISSION LINES



15+
COUNTRIES



TOP
RENEWABLE
ENERGY
SERVICE COMPANIES
2021

RECOGNIZED BY
ENERGY
Tech Review



ENERZINX

Analytics To Inform And Inspire

MOTIVATION

FERC is concerned that the lack of transparency to obtain information about potential interconnection costs prior to submitting an interconnection request is problematic.



FERC recommends providing a visual representation of available interconnection capacity, as well as a table of relevant interconnection metrics that allow prospective interconnection customers to see certain estimates of a potential generating facility's effect on the transmission provider's transmission system.

This could provide valuable information to prospective interconnection customers considering efficient interconnection points and could ameliorate the incentive to submit multiple speculative interconnection requests.

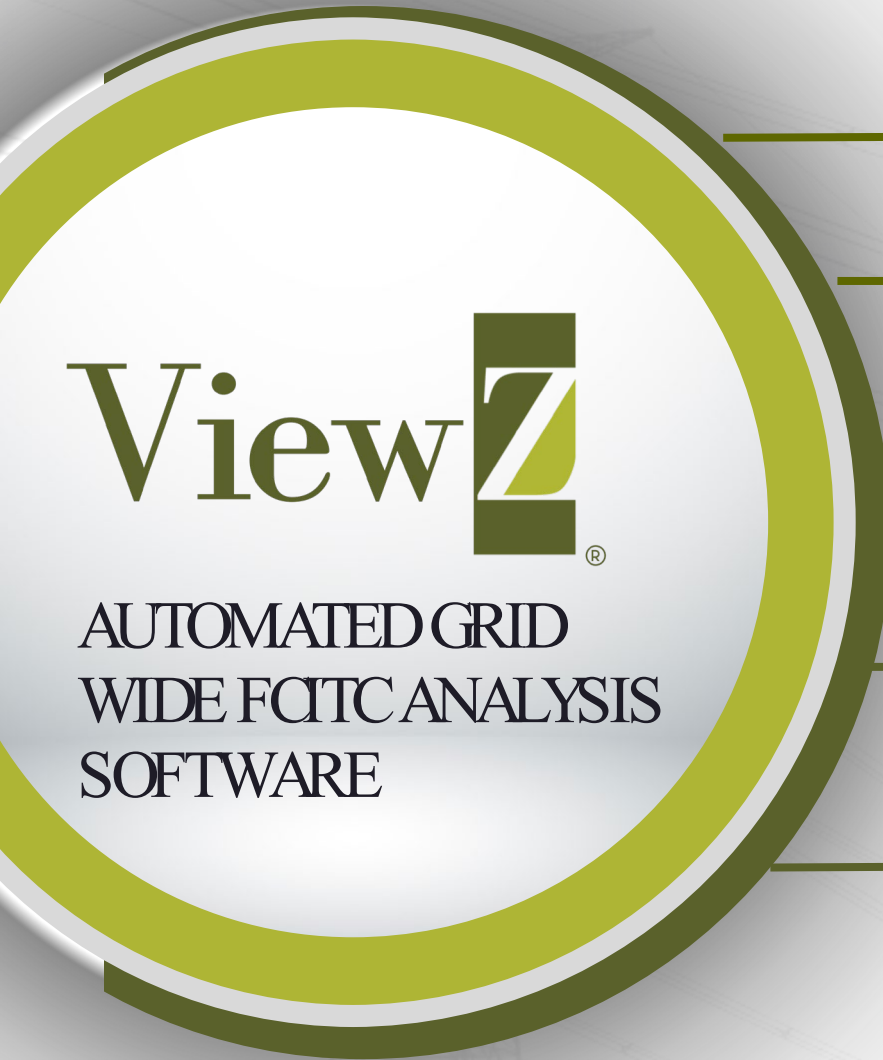
Improvements to Generator Interconnection Procedures and Agreements. A Proposed Rule by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on 07/05/2022.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/07/05/2022-13470/improvements-to-generator-interconnection-procedures-and-agreements#citation-426-p39984>



SOLUTION

ViewZ Automated Grid wide FCITC Analysis Software



Fully automated end to end solution



20,000 Man hours of development and testing

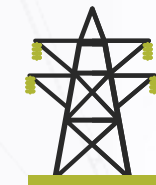


Employs full AC power flow

Employs industry standard PSSE, PSLF etc. software engines



Validated against several Utilities/ ISO studies



80,000+ substations analysed



40+ Utilities analysed

NOTABLE FEATURES

Auto Corrects

Auto-corrects Base Case rating errors.



Auto Generates

Auto generates Contingency and monitoring elements' list specific to a chosen POI.



Parallel Processing

Can be efficiently deployed on multi-core processors.



Multi Utility/ ISO Support

Customized to the respective utility feasibility analysis guidelines.



Thermal & Voltage Analysis

Evaluates thermal as well as voltage violations to compute appropriate hosting capacity



SCR Analysis

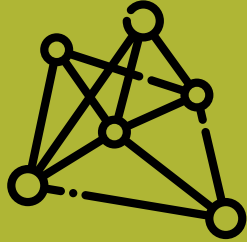
Performs SCR analysis on all POI's



NOTABLE FEATURES CONT.

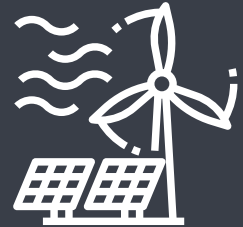
Intelligent Algorithm

Intelligently switches between solution methods to efficiently solve the case with minimal iterations.



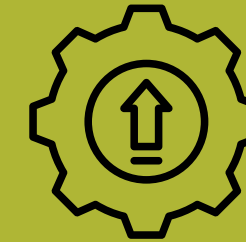
Hybrid projects

Computes charging as well as discharging interconnection capacity for hybrid projects



Upgrades

Provides list of upgrades required to achieve target capacity



Import/Export features

Supports import and export in universal formats. Saves/Restores session in encrypted mode.



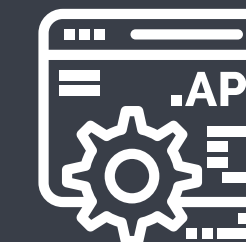
Heat maps

Supports seamless Google Earth integration to generate interactive Heat maps and Feature maps.



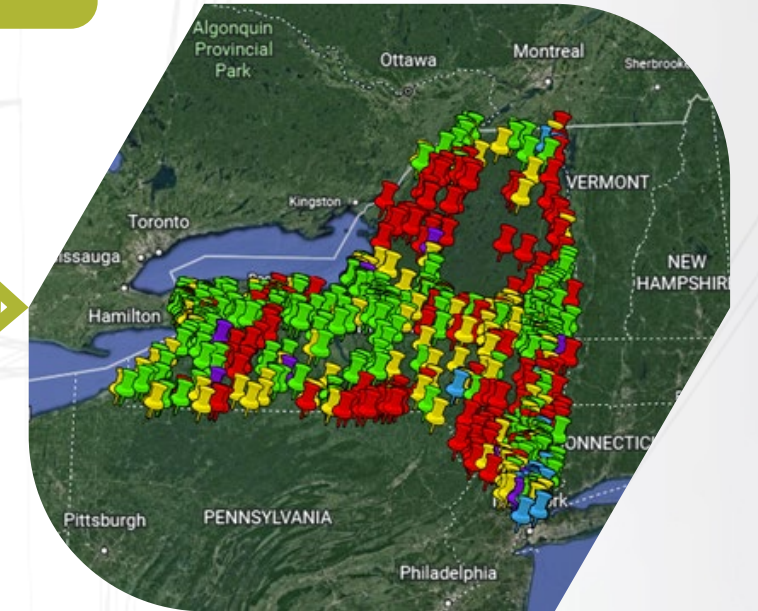
Third party support

Supports third party SDK's and REST API's to integrate with external geographical maps

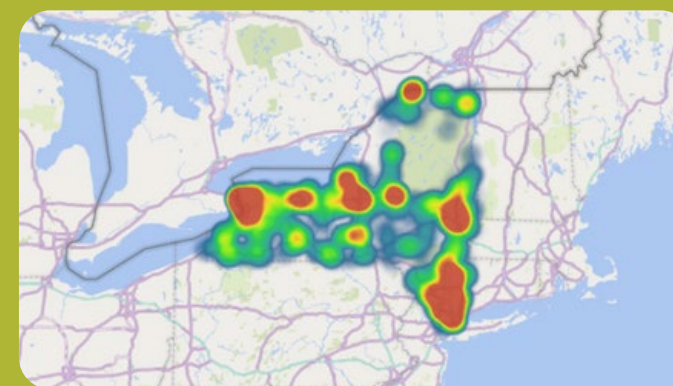


HEAT AND FEATURE MAPS

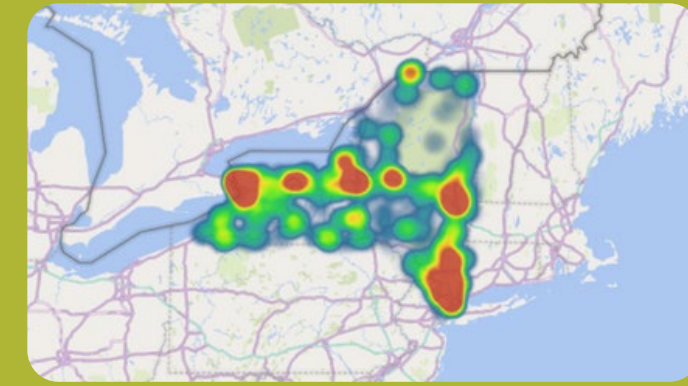
FEATURE MAP



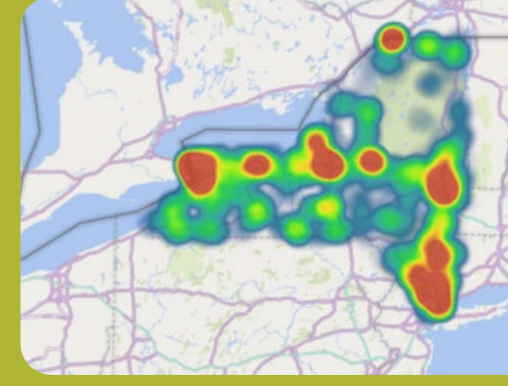
HEAT MAP



2021

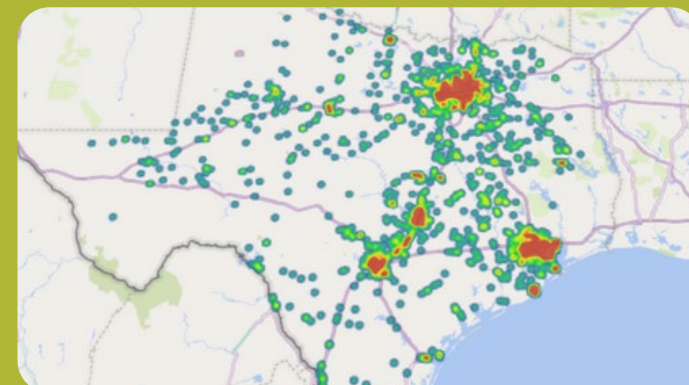


2026

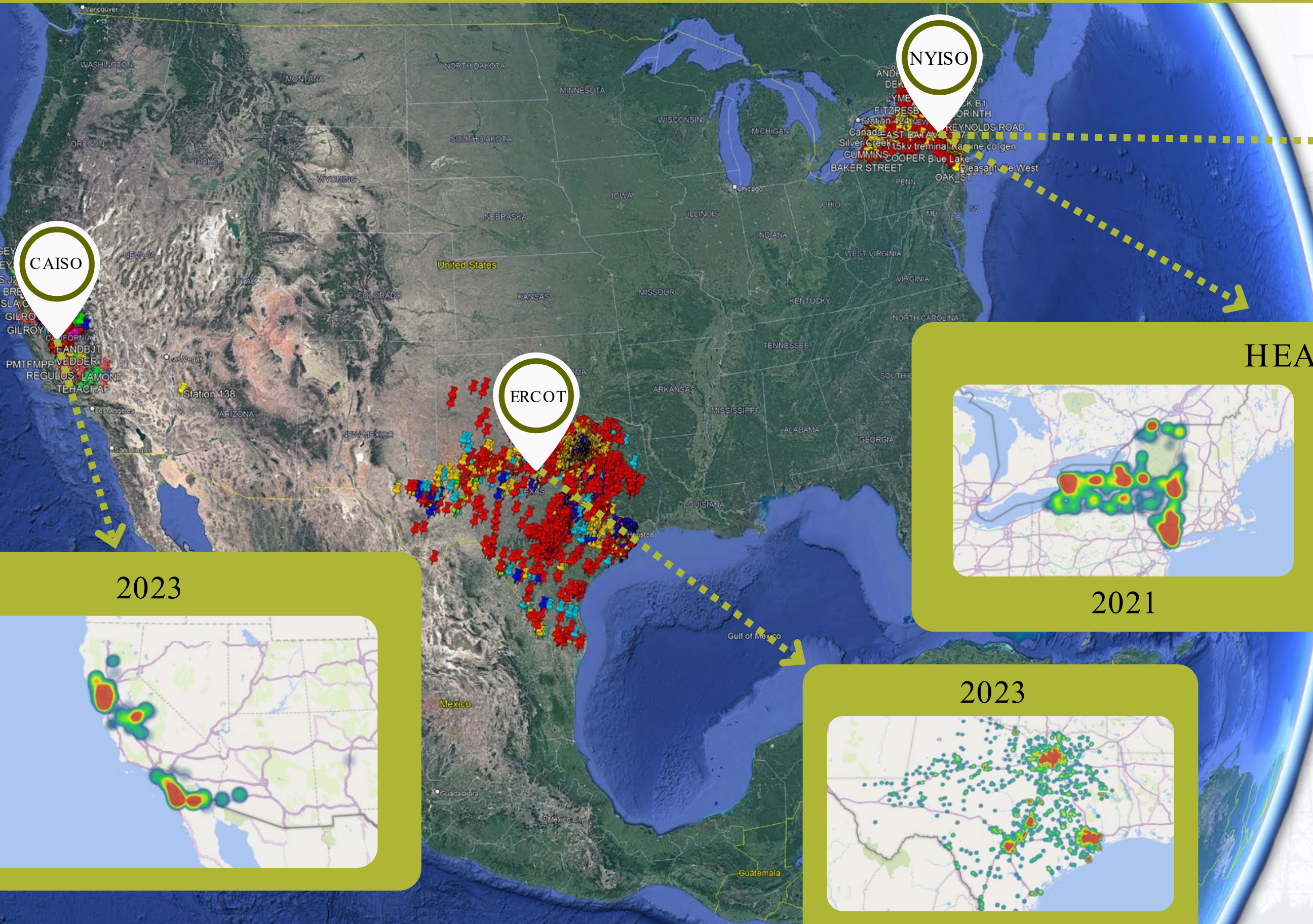
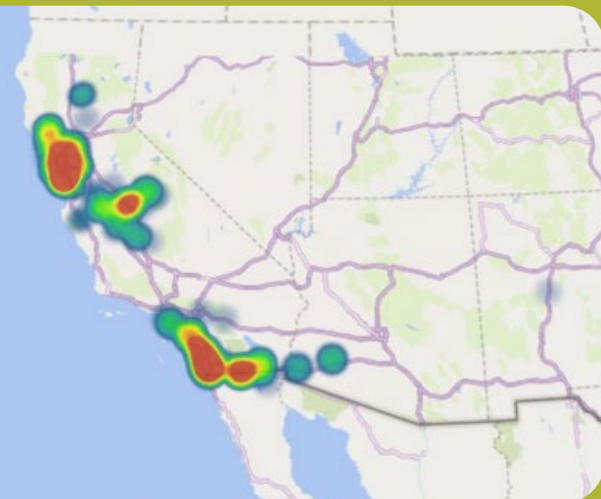


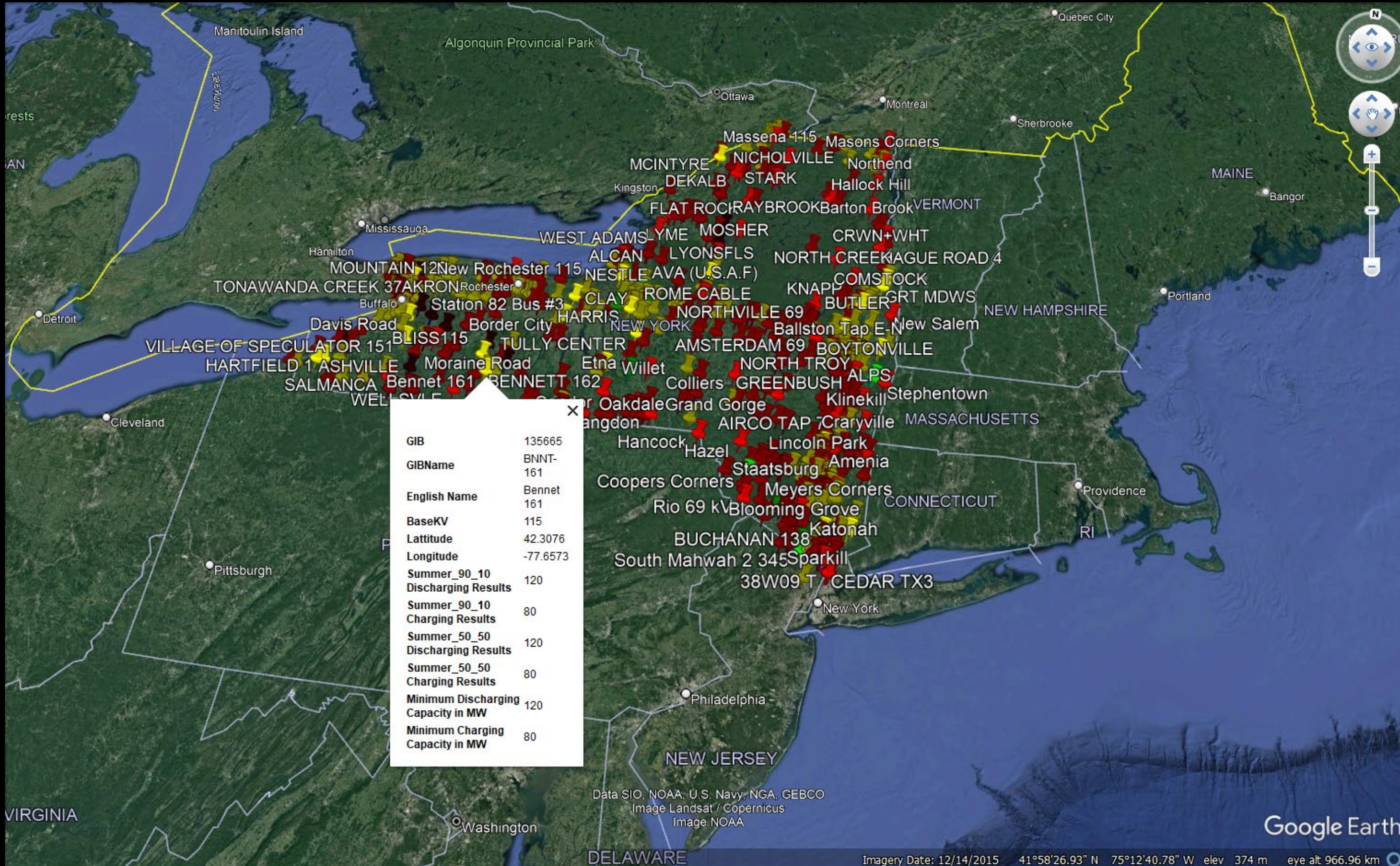
2031

2023



2023





ZEROING IN

PSSE 33
 PSSE 34
 PSSE 35

Generation Interconnection Buses
 Buses: 69736, 69743, 69744, 65812, 69745, 67864, 68996, 65910
 Areas: _____ Base KV_{min}: 69.0
 Zones: _____ Base KV_{max}: 500.0

Configuration Selection
 SCR SCR (N-1)
 SCR Factor: 5
 Charging/Discharging: _____
 Derive Buses: _____
 Terminate: _____

CON/MON options
 DF cutoff: 3
 Files upload: _____
 Select segments to be excluded: _____

Cont Case
 Min(p.u.): 0.85
 Max(p.u.): 1.15
 Ignore Pre-project Violations

Auto correct

Select PSSE Version

Provide list of POI buses or filter as per
Check for SCR, SC
Set Charging/Disc

Configu

Select DF threshold for auto gen
elements list.
Upload CON/MON files
Select any segments which use

Select permitted line load, line tolerance values.
Option to chose MVA flow or AMP flow to report
violation.
Option to ignore pre project o

Provide System intact voltage limit.
Provide Contingency Voltage limit.
Option to ignore segments with pre -
project overload.
Provide Delta tolerance in case of pre -
project violations.

Results Directory

test_script2

- Name
- ResultFiles
- 65006.con
- 65006.dfx
- 65006.mon
- 65006.sub
- 65006@0.acc
- 65006@0_ver_0.acc
- 65006@0_ver_1.acc
- 65006@10.acc
- 65006@pre.acc
- 65006@pre_ver_0.acc
- 65006@pre_ver_1.acc
- 65006_pgen_0.0.sav
- 65006_pgen_10.0.sav
- 65006_ver_0.con
- 65006_ver_1.con
- 65207.con
- 65207.dfx
- 65207.mon
- 65207.sub
- 65207@pre.acc
- 65467.con
- 65467.dfx
- 65467.mon
- 65467.sub
- 65467@0.acc
- 65467@0_ver_0.acc
- 65467@0_ver_1.acc
- 65467@10.acc
- 65467@10_ver_0.acc

	GIB	Available Capacity(MW)	Tested Capacity(MW)	Status	Contingency details
1	66831	20	30	Thermal violation observed at 30.0MW	BASE CASE
2	65515	100	120	Thermal violation observed at 120.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
3	66725	0	20	Thermal violation observed at 20.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
4	65459	0	20	Thermal violation observed at 20.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
5	66067	0	20	Thermal violation observed at 20.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
6	66831	20	30	Thermal violation observed at 30.0MW	BASE CASE
7	69762	20	40	Thermal violation observed at 40.0MW	BASE CASE
8	66067	20	40	Thermal violation observed at 40.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
9	66831	30	40	Thermal violation observed at 40.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
10	66833	40	50	Thermal violation observed at 50.0MW	BASE CASE
11	66831	40	50	Thermal violation observed at 50.0MW	BASE CASE
12	66832	40	50	Thermal violation observed at 50.0MW	BASE CASE
13	65860	40	60	Thermal violation observed at 60.0MW	BASE CASE
14	67673	40	60	Thermal violation observed at 60.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
15	66831	50	60	Thermal violation observed at 60.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
16	65915	60	80	Thermal violation observed at 80.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
17	69110	60	80	Thermal violation observed at 80.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
18	67439	60	80	Thermal violation observed at 80.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
19	65755	60	80	Thermal violation observed at 80.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...
20	66740	80	100	Thermal violation observed at 100.0MW	TRIP LINE FROM ...

Run

Target capacities

- 345.0Kv 200
- 115.0Kv 100
- 69.0Kv 50
- 230.0Kv 150

Stopping criteria

THERMAL

Multi Thread 24

Single Thread

ACCC options

Run

AC Contingency Solution

Solution Option A

Solution Options

- Tap Adjustment: Lock Taps, Stepping, Direct
- Area Interchange Control: Disabled, Tie lines only, Tie lines and load
- Switched shunt adjustments: Lock all, Enable all, Enable continuous, disable discrete
- Adjust DC taps: Adjust DC taps, Adjust phase shift

Solution Engine

- Fixed slope decoupled Newton-Raphson
- Full Newton-Raphson

Dispatch Mode: Disable

Mismatch Tolerance: 1.00

Max Iterations: 20.00

Auto corrects rating errors

List of target capacities as per Base KV

Stopping Criteria

Stopping criteria

User can provide preferred solution options to solve contingencies

Run Tool to evaluate hosting capacities

Generate hosting capacity maps

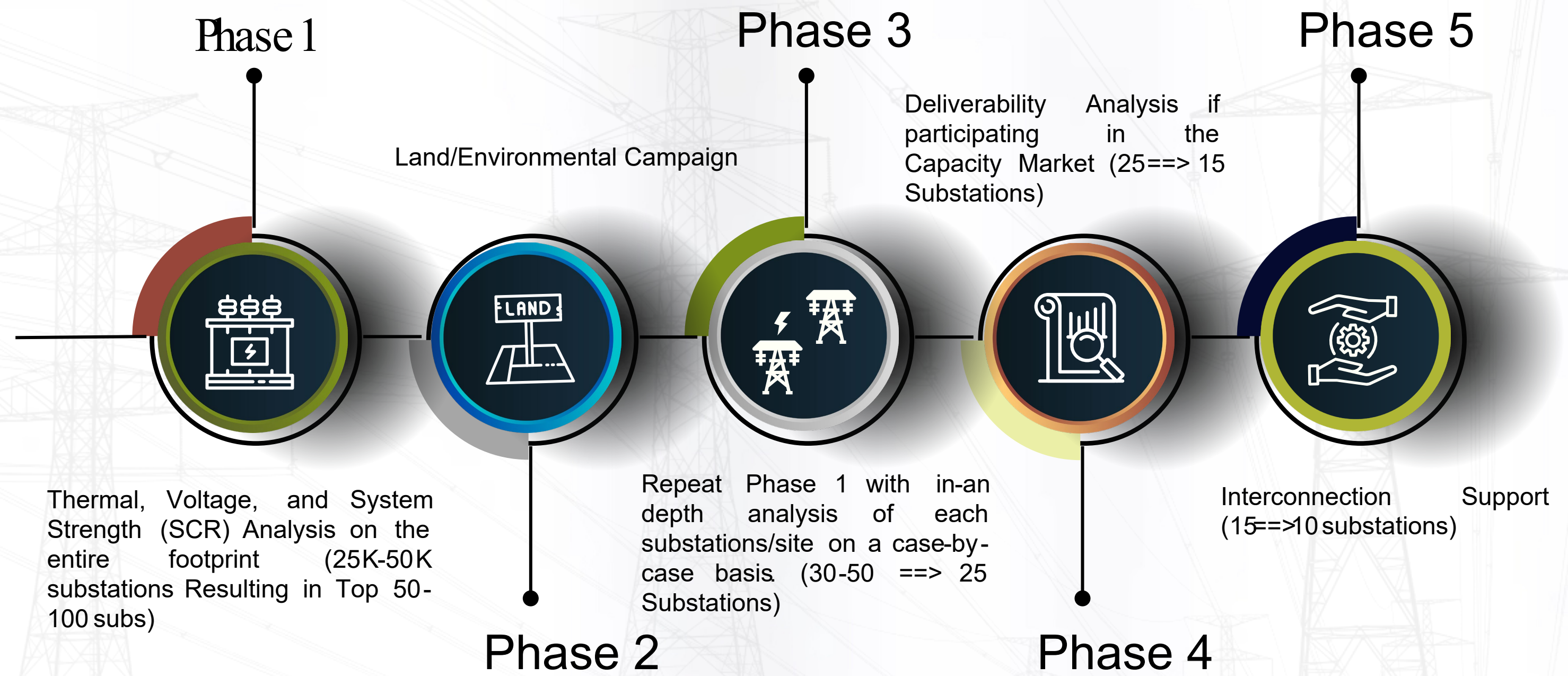
Directory tree to view results.

Panel to view Table shows POI details.

Table displays color coded results.



PROJECT DERISKING





MISO Point of Interconnection (POI) Tool

Resource Utilization

April 2023

Purpose & Key Takeaways



Purpose: Introduce and provide a demonstration of the MISO POI tool

Key Takeaways:

- MISO POI Tool is designed to help Interconnection Customers pre-screen for potential POIs
- The results are for information only and do not include voltage or stability constraints

Background

- Interconnection Customers want to get a general idea on WHERE a good POI would be for the planning horizon
- Heat Map: Better overview of the Planning Horizon system condition
- Interactive Tool provides a better customer experience

High Level Introduction of the Tool

- The results are informational only
- A tutorial on how to use the tool is provided when first launching it
- Tool can be used to pre-screen for potential POIs, to eliminate POIs with excessive thermal overloads
- It is not meant to replace any existing process, such as Preliminary Transmission Feasibility Study
- The results DO NOT include voltage or stability constraints

Security Concerns of the Tool

- To Protect CEII info:
- Contingency info
 - cannot be provided on a Public Website
- Transmission Lines on the Maps
 - cannot be combined to be presented in the tool
- The list of expected projects for a given POI
 - cannot be provided by the tool

High Level Steps for using the POI Tool

1. Select an area on the map
2. Enter a MW request amount (Required)
3. Filter POI based on kV Level (Optional)
4. Select POI to see results
5. Save results (Optional)

Select an Area on the Map



When you want to perform a POI analysis the first step consists of selecting an area to work with on the map.



[Skip](#)

[Next >](#)

WISHEK 230

26th St & Ave. D

BAKER

BASSES HUNT 3

BEULAH

Bismarck DT

Bismarck Expressway

Bowdle

Cabin Creek

CENTURY

Collins

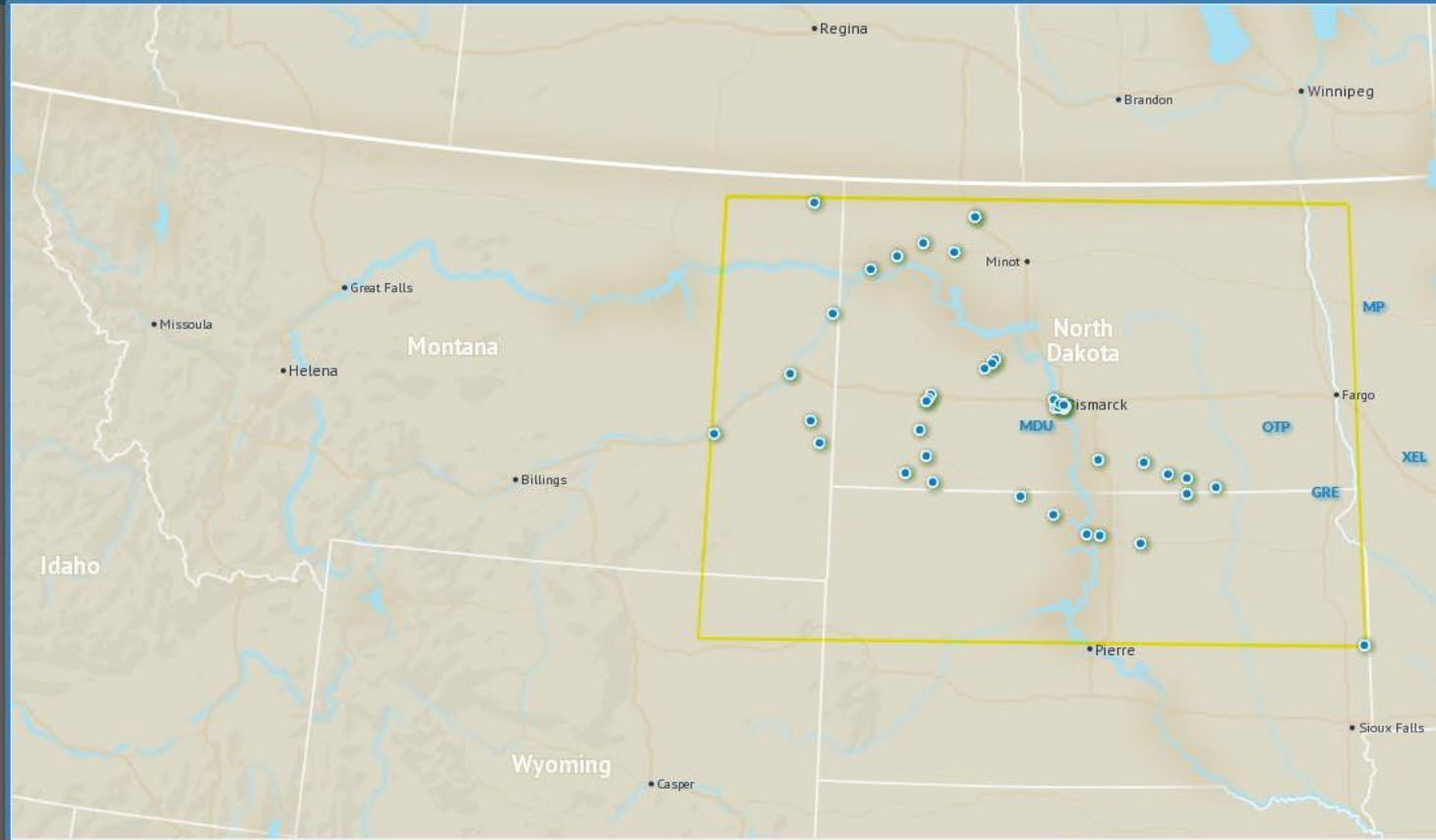
COYOTE 115

CPEC-Bismarck Century

CPEC-CENTIPEDE

CPEC-McLAUGHLIN

Dickinson Green River



Enter a MW Request Amount (Required)

Points of Interconnection

MDU

MW Request: 500

KV Level: None

Filter POI

- WISHEK 230
- 26th St. & Ave. D
- BAKER
- BASSES HUNT 3
- BEULAH
- Bismarck DT
- Bismarck Expressway
- Bowdle
- Cabin Creek
- CENTURY
- Collins
- COYOTE 115
- CPEC-Bismarck Century
- CPEC-CENTPEDE
- CPEC-McLAUGHLIN
- Dickinson Green River
- DICKINSON GREEN RIVER BE7
- East Bismarck

MISO POI

- MISO POI (52)
- Overload (0)
- Normal load (0)
- Analysed - no results (1)

Second, you will need to provide a **MW Request** amount. This is mandatory.

[Skip](#) < Back Next >

WISHEK 230

Monitored Facility	MW Available	% DFax	MW Impact
--------------------	--------------	--------	-----------

Filter POI based on kV Level (Optional)

The screenshot displays the MISO Points of Interconnection (POI) interface. On the left, a sidebar contains a search bar and a list of POI names. A dropdown menu for 'kV Level' is set to 'None'. A blue tooltip box is overlaid on the interface, containing the text: 'Third, you will have the option to filter the POI list by selecting a POI kV level...'. Below the tooltip are navigation buttons: 'Skip', '< Back', and 'Next >'. The main area shows a map of the MISO region with a yellow bounding box highlighting a specific area. At the bottom, a table header is visible with columns for 'Monitored Facility', 'MW Available', '% DF-ax', and 'MW Impact'. The 'MW Available' column has a downward arrow, and the '% DF-ax' column has an upward arrow. The 'MW Impact' column has a downward arrow. The 'Monitored Facility' column is currently empty.

Select POI based on Name

Points of Interconnection

MDU

MW Request: 500

KV Level: None

Filter POI

- WISHEK 230
- 26th St. & Ave. D
- BAKER
- BASSES HUNT 3
- BEULAH
- Bismarck DT
- Bismarck Expressway
- Bowdle
- Cabin Creek
- CENTURY
- Collins
- COYOTE 115
- CPEC-Bismarck Century
- CPEC-CENTIPEDE
- CPEC-McLAUGHLIN
- Dickinson Green River
- DICKINSON GREEN RIVER BE7
- East Bismarck

... and by typing a POI name.

At that point you can initiate the analysis by clicking the POI point on the map or initiate an analysis in batch via the use of the selection tool in the top left corner of the map.

•••••

[Skip](#) [Back](#) [Next](#)

139 km
Map Scale: 1:4,125,000

WISHEK 230

Monitored Facility

MW Available

View Results from Analysis

Once you have analysed a few POI, use the **Summary** tab in the table to see a combined view of the results.

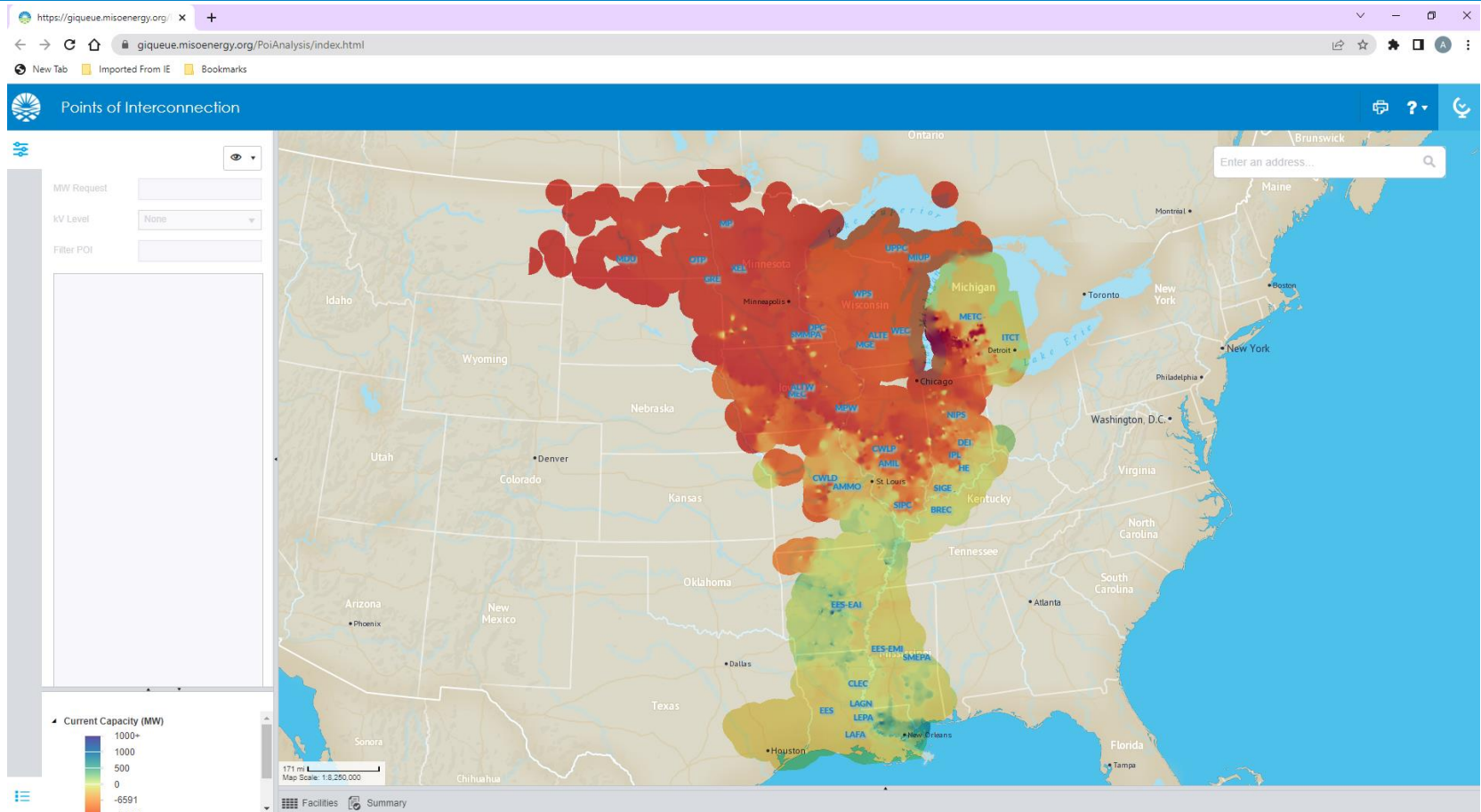


< Back Done >

Area	POI	Monitored Facility	MW Available	% DFax	MW Impact	% Impact	% Loading (Before)	% Loading (After)
------	-----	--------------------	--------------	--------	-----------	----------	--------------------	-------------------

Facilities Summary

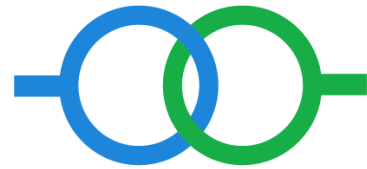
Link to the MISO POI Tool



[Tool Link: https://giqueue.misoenergy.org/PoiAnalysis/index.html](https://giqueue.misoenergy.org/PoiAnalysis/index.html)

Contact Information

- Simon Guo
 - sguo@misoenergy.org
- Ryan Westphal
 - rwestphal@misoenergy.org
- Andy Witmeier
 - awitmeier@misoenergy.org



Pearl Street

TECHNOLOGIES

www.pearlstreettechnologies.com

Hosting capacity automation for the transmission system

David M. Bromberg, Ph.D.

bromberg@pearlstreettechnologies.com

Creating and using hosting capacity maps

- Objective: give developers a tool to site and size new projects
 - Make it clear where severe grid constraints exist, ideally reducing the volume of less realistic projects for ISOs/utilities to process
- Creating such a map involves running some form of interconnection study, or at least a simplified one
 - Begin with a transmission planning model
 - [Define and incorporate assumptions](#) (pre-existing projects in the queue to include, contingent mitigation, prospective transmission projects, etc.)
 - Run a power flow study to identify flows and constraints given the model assumptions
 - Provide data to users that allows them to test the impact a new project would have on the system flows and constraints



The dynamics of interconnection queues

Queues may change **daily**, and every change *could* impact hosting capacity

– Example: SPP queue from April – December 2022

Queue Updates	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Monthly average
Projects added	1	7	53	7	9	13	2	13	3	12
Projects withdrawn	5	26	3	0	11	30	5	17	19	13
POI location updates	2	41	5	13	18	17	23	34	7	18
Project capacity updates [MW]	1	5	0	2	2	3	5	12	11	5
Service type changes (ERIS/NRIS)	2	6	0	0	13	3	3	17	31	8
Generator fuel type updates	1	12	0	2	5	3	11	21	11	7
Monthly average	2	16	10	4	10	12	8	19	14	

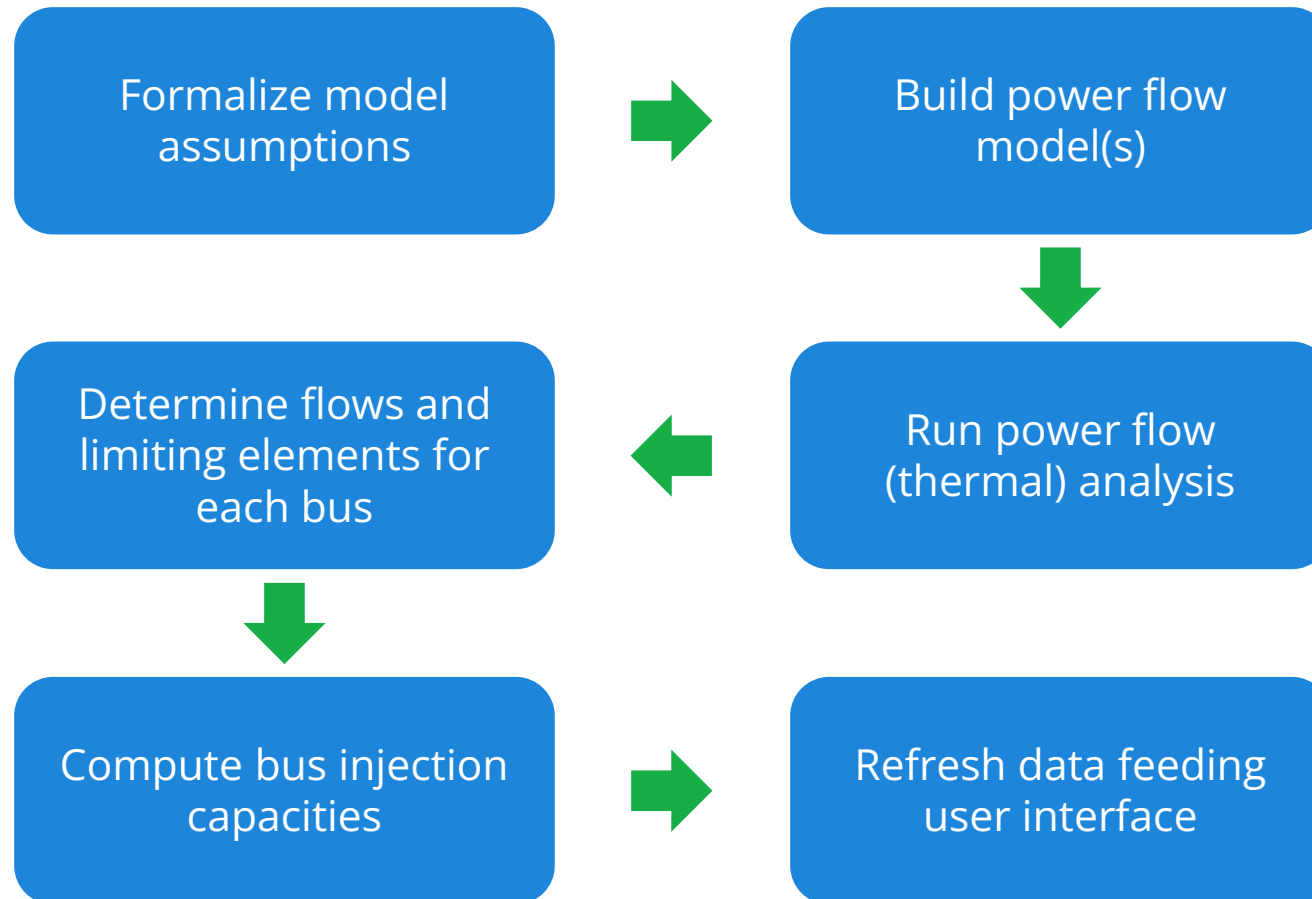


Hosting capacity in a dynamic world

- Stale data in a hosting capacity map provides limited value
- Providing useful information to stakeholders relies on a “set and forget it” **system**, not “set it and forget it” **data**
 - Automatically update hosting capacity values given changing assumptions, without burdening ISO/utility interconnection engineers already stretched thin
- Challenge: automate the process to the point where capacity outputs can be reliably computed from model inputs

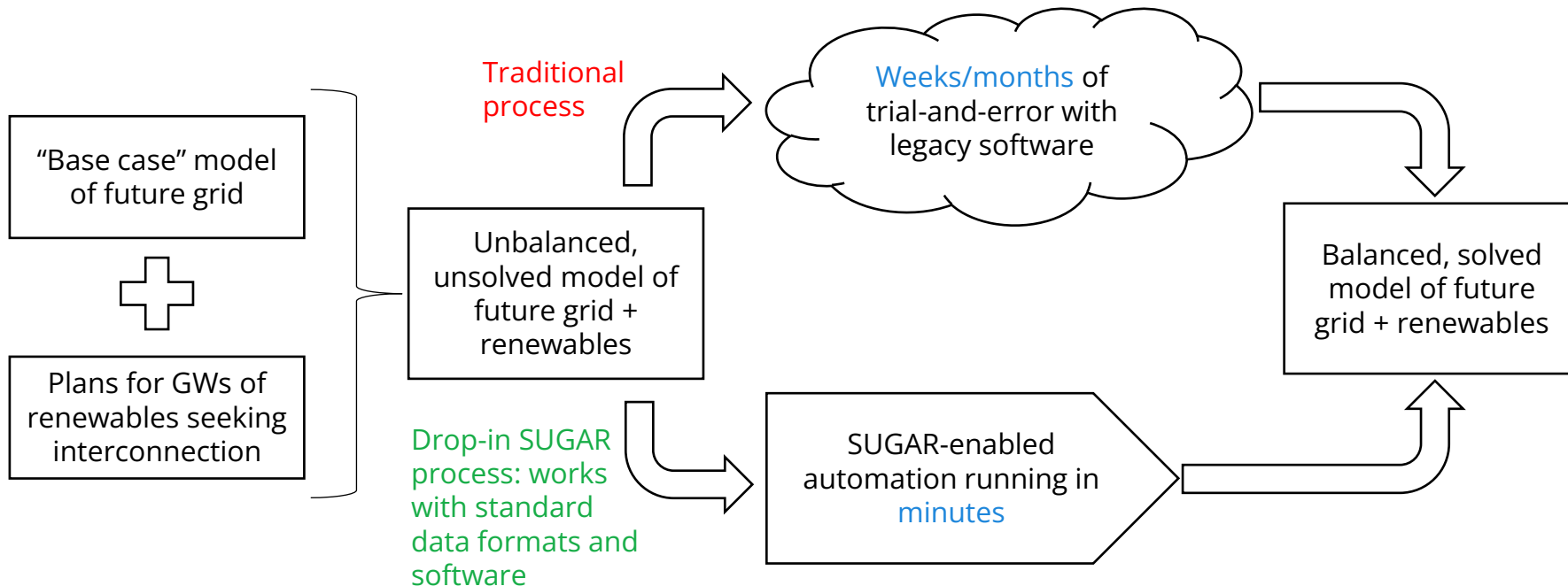


Hosting capacity system



Model building automation is critical

- Modeling “big changes” applied to transmission planning models can be a time consuming, labor intensive task (especially dealing with nonconvergence)
- Pearl Street develops simulation and optimization technology (SUGAR) to automate this crucial step in grid studies
 - Example: Usage at Southwest Power Pool to dispatch and solve 50+ interconnection models in minutes



Beyond hosting capacity: capacity in N dimensions

- Developers grapple with questions around interconnection to drive business decisions for current and future projects
 - “I have an interested land owner at [X], how many MWs can I build here without triggering expensive upgrades?”
 - “There are network upgrades being cost allocated across my project’s cluster – is there a path forward for my project to be competitive?”
 - “How will my cost allocation change if a prior queued project with a contingent upgrade decides to withdraw?”
 - How do these answers change given the many possible scenarios involving other projects and upgrades that might occur?
- Hosting capacity is based on only one set of assumptions; developers need to test many assumptions to assess their interconnection risk



Pearl Street's Interconnection Intelligence Platform

A one-stop solution for assessing interconnection risk at scale

- Automated model building, thermal analysis, mitigation cost estimation to explore cost allocation across any number of scenarios

The screenshot displays the Pearl Street Interconnection Intelligence Platform interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with icons for home, search, and user profile. The main content area is divided into two sections: a map and a spreadsheet.

The map section shows a map of the United States with red dots representing interconnection points. The map is titled "Map" and includes a "Select Date" dropdown set to "03/24/2023". The map shows various states and cities, with red dots indicating interconnection points. Two specific points are highlighted with green circles and the number "2".

The spreadsheet section is titled "Spreadsheet" and includes a table with the following columns: "Generation In...", "IFS Queue Number", "Current Cl...", "Cluster Group", "Nearest Town or ...", "State", "TO at POI", "In-Service Date", "Commercial Oper...", and "Cessation". The table contains five rows of data:

Generation In...	IFS Queue Number	Current Cl...	Cluster Group	Nearest Town or ...	State	TO at POI	In-Service Date	Commercial Oper...	Cessation
GEN-2022-247		DISIS-2022-001	01 NORTH	Kidder	ND	BEPC	2028-03-01	2028-09-15	
GEN-2022-246		DISIS-2022-001	01 NORTH	Kidder	ND	BEPC	2028-03-01	2028-09-15	
GEN-2022-245		DISIS-2022-001	01 NORTH	Kidder	ND	BEPC	2028-03-01	2028-09-15	
GEN-2022-244		DISIS-2022-001	05 SOUTHWEST	Foard and Wilbar...	TX	SPS	2027-05-01	2027-12-15	
GEN-2022-243		DISIS-2022-001	05 SOUTHWEST	Foard and Wilbar...	TX	SPS	2027-05-01	2027-12-15	



Summary

- Hosting capacity maps can provide valuable insights to developers, but only if the data is regularly refreshed
- Automating the interconnection study process (or a “lite” version) is critical to keep maps up to date
- Technology solutions enable this level of automation and support scenario analysis to assess interconnection risk