

Principles for Technical Review Committee (TRC) Involvement in Studies of Wind Integration into Electric Power Systems

What Will a TRC Provide?

A properly constituted TRC will assist the project sponsors in ensuring that the quality of the technical work and the accuracy of results will be as high as possible. TRC participation will also enhance the credibility and acceptance of the study results throughout the affected stakeholder communities. And TRC members will be qualified to carry the key messages of the study to their respective sectors.

What Is a Properly Constituted TRC?

TRC membership should include individuals that collectively provide expertise in all of the technical disciplines relevant to the study. A TRC facilitator should be selected from among the TRC membership. Sponsorship and facilitation of the TRC should be independent from, but closely coordinated with, the project sponsors and the team conducting the work. Observers from relevant government agencies and other interested parties may attend TRC meetings and be included in TRC communication at the discretion of the project sponsors. Alternatively, a separate stakeholder group can be considered in order to update interested parties on study progress and key results.

What are the TRC's Functions and Requirements?

The TRC will

- ❖ Review study objectives and approach, and offer suggestions when appropriate to strengthen the study.
- ❖ Help ensure that the study:
 - Builds upon prior peer-reviewed wind integration studies and related technical work;
 - Receives the benefit of findings from recent and current wind integration study work;
 - Incorporates broadly supported best practices for wind integration studies;
 - Is developed with broad stakeholder input.
- ❖ Engage actively in the project throughout its duration. In general, project review meetings should be held nominally on a quarterly basis; some meetings can be held telephonically, but some should also occur face-to-face. A face-to-face kickoff meeting to establish and agree on the general direction of the work is required.

- ❖ Engender collegial discussions of methods and results among TRC members, the study team, project sponsors and other interested parties. The aim of these discussions is to improve accuracy, clarity and understanding of the work, and reach consensus resolution on issues that arise.
- ❖ Avoid public disclosure of meeting discussions and preliminary results. In general, findings should not be released until accepted and generally agreed upon by project sponsors, the study team and the TRC. When advisable, possible and agreed to by all project participants, interim progress reports can be provided to a broader stakeholder group.
- ❖ Ensure that findings are based entirely on facts and accurate engineering and science. Project sponsors need to embrace this aim so that the results and findings are objectively developed and not skewed to support any desired outcome.
- ❖ Document results of TRC meetings and distribute meeting presentations and minutes.

To carry out these functions, the TRC requires

- ❖ Access to all relevant information needed to properly evaluate the work and the results. When required, TRC members will enter into confidentiality agreements to protect this information. In no case can certain information needed by the TRC be declared “off-limits.”
- ❖ Assurance that the study results will be made public through published documentation or other suitable means, with the understanding that business-sensitive information will not be made public.
- ❖ Assurance that project sponsors will describe the project as having the benefit of expert review by a TRC only if the TRC has clearly expressed its acceptance of and agreement with the results of the study.
- ❖ Assurance that, in the event agreement is not reached by the TRC and other project participants, any reference to the TRC will be removed from the final report and any associated documents or publicity.

How Can Project Sponsor(s) and a TRC Agree To Conduct A Study in Accordance With These Principles?

Each can sign below:

_____ for the Project Sponsor(s)

_____ for the Technical Review Committee