

April 2023 Roadshow Discussion Questions

This discussion guide is meant to provide additional context to the April Roadshow workshop materials and prompt discussion during the roadshow workshops. Please note this is not inclusive of all topics and BPA will welcome all areas of feedback and discussion during the roadshow workshops.

1. One of the foundational tenets of the tiered rate construct is insulating customers from costs associated with other customers' load changes and resource decisions. However, BPA received comments expressing strong interest in expanding the risks and costs shared amongst customers. Which risks and costs should be shared? How much should strive to shield costs borne between customers on products and services selected?
2. BPA heard customers would like more rate stability in the coming contract period and are looking at federal service options to support that. At the start of the Provider of Choice discussions in 2016, BPA heard the opposite request to limit federal take-or-pay obligations to allow customers to take advantage of the market. How does your utility weigh leaving optionality of load service and the exposure to varying market prices versus the certainty provided by clear load obligation placed on BPA and any resource acquisitions required to serve that load?
3. BPA provided an updated concept for setting Contract High Water Marks (CHWMs) in January 2023 that reflected feedback given in the fall of 2022 that the Provider of Choice CHWM methodology should honor the policy intent adopted under Regional Dialogue. Does the current proposal adequately acknowledge Regional Dialogue policy intent? Should Regional Dialogue have less of an impact on Provider of Choice policy decisions?
4. One of the major concerns emerging in the Provider of Choice policy process is how the new policy, contracts and rate methodology decisions may create seams issues with the Regional Dialogue policy, contracts and rate methodology based on how customers have planned to meet and serve their loads under Regional Dialogue. How much should signaling intent for the next contracts factor into decision-making for the current policy?
5. BPA's goal is to offer a suite of products for customers to choose from for Provider of Choice. However, as is the case with Regional Dialogue, products will be designed to offer different features and flexibility. What are core elements the various products should offer? Should these products prioritize meeting load service over flexibility?
6. BPA and Provider of Choice participants have set a goal to have a regionally supported policy. BPA recognizes that in establishing a balanced policy for all that it may not result in a first-choice outcome for any individual customer or stakeholder. How should regional alignment be recognized--is it by equally constraining for all participants, is there a cost/risk determination, or is there another measurement?
7. BPA is in the first public phase of a multi-year effort to establish the Provider of Choice contracts, which means there are many more details and issues to resolve in the coming years. What is it about the policy process that creates the biggest stress points right now? How could it be resolved (e.g. earlier decisions, more time to discuss issues) as we wrap up the policy phase and plan for the contracts and rate development phases, which will include discussions on detailed product development?
8. BPA recognizes there are a lot of utility-specific impacts that may not have been flagged or addressed. What are we not addressing that you believe a future policy or contract needs to capture?