



## Alternatives to Transmission:

### What is a “Non-Transmission Alternative” or “NTA”?

#### What is an NTA?

- ▶ **Solutions that do not involve transmission infrastructure improvements.**
  - ▶ Energy Efficiency: Measures to reduce energy use such as replacing appliances with more efficient ones.
  - ▶ Demand Response: Programs to compensate customers for disconnecting their load or running customer generation when needed.
  - ▶ Generation: Installation of small and large scale generators.
  - ▶ Other: Unknown or not fully implemented concepts, such as smart grid.

#### When can NTAs be used?

- ▶ **Before a reliability concern is identified.**
  - ▶ NTAs are beneficial in and of themselves.
    - ▶ Everyone should minimize energy consumption.
    - ▶ Generation investments are made for many reasons including emergency, security, load serving, financial, environmental.
    - ▶ Demand Response can be valuable during emergencies.
- ▶ **After a reliability concern is identified.**
  - ▶ When effective at addressing the reliability concern and are cost-effective relative to transmission.

#### What is the relationship Between NTAs and Transmission?

- ▶ NTAs and transmission are critical components of our electric infrastructure.
- ▶ Viable and cost-effective NTAs can defer transmission upgrades.
- ▶ Transmission upgrades may be needed to accommodate NTAs.
- ▶ The best solutions – most viable and cost effective – may be hybrids that include both NTAs and transmission.

#### What are the questions used to screen issues for the potential use of NTAs?

- ▶ Is the proposed project’s cost expected to exceed \$2 million?
- ▶ Could elimination or deferral of all or part of the upgrade be accomplished through the use of non-transmission alternatives?
- ▶ Is the likely reduction in costs from the potential elimination or deferral of all or part of the upgrade greater than \$1,000,000?