

	BPA MANUAL Chapter 608: Operational Telecommunications and Control Facilities Part: Business Management and Operations	Page: 608-1 Date: 9/9/11
---	---	--

608.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE To establish procedures for obtaining operational telecommunications services and equipment and to provide guidelines for the appropriate uses of the BPA operational telecommunications system.

608.1 DEFINITIONS

A. Operational Telecommunications: Telecommunications for the control, operation and protection of the BPA Power System.

B. Operational Telecommunications Facilities: Telecommunication lines, circuits and equipment, whether leased or owned, used primarily for operational telecommunications.

C. Administrative Telecommunications Facilities: Telecommunication lines, circuits and equipment, whether leased or owned, used primarily for administrative purposes. Available excess capacity on BPA operational telecommunications facilities may be used for administrative purposes if the excess capacity was originally, or is now, justified based on operational requirements. This is to avoid duplicative facilities and costs, and improve efficiency.

608.2 POLICY

A. Permitted Use of BPA Operational Telecommunications Systems:

BPA Operational Telecommunications Systems that are required for the control, operation, dispatching, and maintenance of the main-grid power transmission system shall be dedicated solely to those functions. Non-dedicated telecommunications systems may be used for the control, operation, dispatch and maintenance of the sub-transmission power system. BPA-owned operational telecommunications systems are primarily used for the control, operation and protection of the BPA power system. Because such telecommunications are an integral part of the power system, BPA has been granted a waiver pursuant to Section 201 of the Federal Information Resources Management Regulations (FIRMR) that would otherwise require the use of Federal Telecommunications Systems (FTS) or common-carrier systems. To the extent that it allows prudent business practice and does not interfere with the primary use, temporarily available unused capacity on BPA-owned operational telecommunications systems may be utilized for permitted secondary uses as described in the following paragraphs.

B. Administrative Telecommunications:

Lacking specific legislative or regulatory authorization or waiver pursuant to Section 201 of the FIRMR, BPA-owned telecommunications systems cannot be established in lieu of FTS solely for administrative uses. FTS and common-carrier telecommunications systems are to be utilized for most administrative uses. Temporarily available excess capacity on BPA-owned operational telecommunications systems already in place to support operational requirements may nevertheless be used for BPA internal administrative telecommunications traffic provided that the excess capacity was originally, or is now justified based on operational requirements, and that such

	BPA MANUAL Chapter 608: Operational Telecommunications and Control Facilities Part: Business Management and Operations	Page: 608-2 Date: 9/9/11
---	---	--

use will avoid duplicative facilities and costs and create greater efficiencies. Such use of spare capacity is subject to the procedures outlined in Section 608.4 of this chapter.

C. Shared use of BPA Operational Telecommunications Systems by Outside Entities. BPA may share temporarily available spare capacity on its operational telecommunications systems with other government agencies (both Federal and State), and with other electric utilities in the region whose power systems interconnect with BPA, subject to the procedures outlined in Section 608.4.C of this chapter.

D. Uses in Lieu of Local Exchange Service. Long line channels on BPA's operational telecommunications systems shall not be directly interconnected with common carrier public switched telephone networks (PSTN). However, where local exchange carrier (LEC) service cannot reasonably be obtained at a BPA location, available excess capacity on the BPA operational telecommunications system may be utilized to extend foreign exchange service to that location from a nearby location if it is deemed a prudent business practice to do so. Inasmuch as this amounts to an unsupervised or unmonitored interconnection between the operational system and commercial common-carrier exchange services, such action is to be avoided generally. Such interconnections are to be rare and based upon unusual circumstances and which are to be documented on a case-by-case basis. Documentation shall include a description of the circumstances that necessitate such action; a description of other alternatives considered and why these were ruled out; an identification of the policies and precedents which apply to the case; a finding by the Telecommunications Manager (Transmission Services, Engineering and Technical Services) that the proposed interconnection is to be permitted; and a delegation of responsibilities for implementing the plan. This documentation shall constitute a record of decision and a copy of this record shall be kept at the interconnection site(s).

608.3 RESPONSIBILITIES Each organization directly concerned with power system planning or use is responsible for identifying its operational telecommunications needs, and for transmitting its recommendations to the BPA program office responsible for budget coordination.

A. The manager responsible for telecommunications systems (Engineering and Technical Services) is responsible for:

1. developing policies for the application of BPA-owned operational telecommunication facilities and/or the leasing of such facilities from the common carriers;
2. developing appropriate procedures for implementation of the above policies;
3. preparing position papers, reports, and analyses as required by the Department of Energy, the BPA Administrator, Office of Management and Budget, and Congressional committees regarding operational telecommunications;

	BPA MANUAL Chapter 608: Operational Telecommunications and Control Facilities Part: Business Management and Operations	Page: 608-3 Date: 9/9/11
---	---	--

4. producing engineering designs that incorporate approved plans and recommendations for operational telecommunications and control facilities to meet the functional requirements of program objectives;
- 5.. establishing standards for operational telecommunications facilities; and
6. maintaining liaison with telephone companies on leasing of operational telecommunications and control facilities.

B. Field Services Regional Managers (Transmission Field Services) are responsible for:

1. recommending operational telecommunications and control facilities that are located solely within each regional boundary; and
2. budgeting for leased operational telecommunications services. (Note: Those which transect more than one region or relate primarily to system wide or headquarters functions are planned and budgeted centrally.)

C. The Manager responsible for Communications and Grid Modeling (Transmission Services, Planning and Asset Management):

1. schedules and budgets for operational telecommunications systems and projects in the Capital Program;
2. establishes the functional requirements for operational telecommunications and power system control facilities, and communicates the requirements to the manager for System Control Engineering;
3. evaluates the technical and economic feasibility of proposed telecommunications projects;
4. determines optimum means for providing operational telecommunications and power system control facilities; and
5. determines whether to lease or purchase operational telecommunications facilities.

D. The Manager responsible for System Operations (Transmission Services, System Operations):

1. budgets for leased telecommunications services that are used
 - a). primarily for dispatching and system operations (telemetry, generation control, inter-utility voice, etc.)
 - b). for services involving more than one Region; and

	BPA MANUAL Chapter 608: Operational Telecommunications and Control Facilities Part: Business Management and Operations	Page: 608-4 Date: 9/9/11
---	---	--

2. notifies the telephone company of specific performance issues (such as malfunctions or outages) with leased telecommunications services and evaluates telephone company responses to the trouble reports.

E. The Vice President for Generation Supply (Power Services), is responsible for planning and budgeting for leased telecommunications services which are used primarily for power scheduling, weather reporting, hydrological reporting, and joint scheduling activity.

608.4 PROCEDURES

A. All requests for leased operational telecommunications services are submitted to an appropriate BPA purchasing official. The responsible program office(s) may initiate requests.

1. For capital program or replacement program projects initiated through the Project Authorization Request (PAR) or Project Requirements Document (PRD) planning process, the manager for Communications and Grid Modeling will evaluate the requirements and determine the optimum method for providing the service including whether to lease, purchase, or build. During the design process, the manager responsible for Telecommunications Systems may initiate the leased telecommunications request, if leased services are required.
2. The Initiating office:
 - a. specifies the technical and administrative requirements and negotiates the service arrangements with the telephone company;
 - b. determines cost and availability for the service;
 - c. assures that funding is available to pay for the service, and
 - d. prepares the appropriate materials or services request for processing by a designated ordering official acting within the authority of the Bonneville Procurement Instructions (BPI).

B. Requests for the incidental use of the BPA-owned Operational Telecommunications System for administrative purposes shall be submitted to the manager of Communications and Grid Modeling. The conditions under which incidental use of spare capacity may be granted are:

1. Any incidental administrative use of BPA's telecommunications facilities shall not degrade or adversely affect the reliability of BPA's Operational Telecommunications System.
2. There shall be clear, justifiable benefits to BPA. There should be a cost benefit of using the operational telecommunication system over FTS or common carrier systems.

	BPA MANUAL	Page: 608-5
	Chapter 608: Operational Telecommunications and Control Facilities	Date: 9/9/11
Part: Business Management and Operations		

3. The administrative use shall not allow direct connection of BPA's operational telecommunication systems with common carrier public switched networks for the purpose of bypassing commercially available inter-LATA services.
4. Any special circumstances applicable to the request should be identified. Examples of such special circumstances include but are not limited to:
 - a. special reliability or security considerations;
 - b. geographic considerations;
 - c. unavailability of common carrier services or FTS service;
 - d. electrical safety, for example a metallic connection to a common carrier's facilities, which could represent a safety hazard; and
 - e. other reasons supporting a determination that the Operational Telecommunications System is the most feasible alternative.

C. Requests for the shared use of the BPA-owned Operational Telecommunications System with entities outside BPA shall be submitted to the Manager for Communications and Grid Modeling. The conditions, under which shared use of spare capacity may be granted, as well as the policies and procedures for granting such requests, are detailed in BPA Transmission Services Standard STD-DC-000026, *Telecommunications Policy for Shared Use of the Operational Telecommunications System*.

608.5 REFERENCES

- A. BPA Manual Chapter 300**, BPA Policy On Budgeting, Subsection 300.5 identifies information sources and procedures for budgeting for telecommunications services and facilities.
- B. BPA Manual Chapter 607**, *Administrative Telecommunications Facilities*, outlines the procedure for obtaining leased telecommunications facilities for offices and other administrative uses.
- C. Bonneville Procurement Instructions (BPI)**, Sections 2.3.3.2a and 11.2.2, define authority within BPA for ordering commercial utility services, including commercial telecommunications services.
- D. Federal Information Resources Management Regulation (FIRMR)**, Section 201, outlines the federally mandated policies and procedures for the use of FTS and defines the requirements for an agency to obtain case-specific exemptions from the FIRMR requirements.
- E. BPA Transmission Services Standard STD-DC-000026**. Guides decisions for sharing the BPA Operational Telecommunications System, or any part thereof, with an external user.

608.6 REVIEW

This BPAM Chapter is scheduled for review in 2016.