

Transmission Sustain Program

The transmission sustain investments are directed at maintaining the capability of existing assets. Sustain investments are managed through a series of programs – steel lines, wood pole lines, access roads, land/land rights, AC substations, system telecommunications, power systems control, system protection/control and control center.

Each program is managed with an asset strategy and associated implementation plan. The asset strategies identify the most critical assets at the highest risk of failure and prioritize replacements accordingly. This is accomplished using an economic analysis that seeks to minimize total economic costs over time. Total economic costs include not only costs to BPA but also costs that would be borne by customers and others if derates or outages occur due to equipment failure. Once the individual programs determine their replacement priorities an additional model is used to aggregate the results and determine trade-offs across the programs to best utilize available funding.

More detailed information regarding the sustain asset strategies can be found in the Capital Investment Review area of BPA.gov.