

Southern Company Transmission **General Business Practices**

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General Guidelines and Requirements

Transmission services are provided by Southern Companies (collectively, Southern Company Services, Inc., for itself and as agent for Alabama Power Company, Georgia Power Company, Gulf Power Company and Mississippi Power Company) in accordance with the *Open Access Transmission Tariff of Southern Companies* (“Tariff”) and with FERC Order Nos. 638, 888, 889, 890, 2003, and 2006. NERC and NAESB Reliability Standards also contain guidance and requirements for providing transmission services. These Business Practices explain Southern Companies implementation of various aspects of those orders and Reliability Standards. The practices are subject to change at the discretion of Southern Company Transmission.

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Applying for Transmission Service

Provisions for Point-to-Point Transmission Service are set forth in Part II of the Tariff, provisions for Network Integration Transmission Service are set forth in Part III of the Tariff and provisions for generator Interconnection Service are set forth in Attachments J, J-1 and J-2 of the Tariff.

Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service

Application requirements for firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service are outlined in Section 17 of the Tariff. A service agreement in the form of Attachment A (without the specification sheet) to the Tariff must be executed by an Eligible Customer to procure Short-Term Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service. The executed agreement serves as an umbrella agreement governing all Short-Term Firm Point-to-Point transactions for the Eligible Customer with the Transmission Provider. A service agreement in the form of Attachment A will be required for each long-term firm, Point-to-Point Transmission Service contract.

Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service

Application requirements for non-firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service are outlined in Section 18 of the Tariff. A service agreement in the form of Attachment B to the Tariff must be executed by an Eligible Customer to procure Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service from the Transmission Provider. The executed agreement serves as an umbrella agreement governing all Non-Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service transactions for the Eligible Customer with the Transmission Provider.

Network Integration Transmission Service

A Network Integration Transmission Service Agreement (Attachment F) and Network Operating Agreement (Attachment G) are used in the procurement of Network Integration Transmission Service. Application requirements are outlined in Section 29 of the Tariff.

Generator Interconnection Service

Procedures for interconnecting large generators (>20 MW) to Southern Companies' Transmission System are described in Attachment J to the Tariff. Study procedures for the NRIS product are described in Attachment J-1. Small Generator Interconnection procedures (\leq 20 MW) are described in Attachment J-2.

Creditworthiness

Attachment Q to the Tariff outlines creditworthiness requirements for conducting business under the Tariff. Additional implementing details are provided in the [Credit Manual](#) that is posted on Southern Companies' OASIS.

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Rates and Charges

Bulk and Sub-transmission charges are determined in accordance with the formula rate manual in **Attachment M** to the Tariff. **Ancillary services** and related charges are noted in **Schedules 1 through 6 and 10 of the Tariff**.

Other Fees and Charges

Annual Credit Review Fee	\$750.00
Study Request Processing Fee (per request)	\$250.00
Extensions to Commencement of Service (Tariff Section 17.7)	One Month Tariff Charges for every year or portion thereof not to exceed 5 years.
Service Application Deposit (Long -Term Service)	One Month estimated Tariff Charges including ancillaries for maximum single year capacity requested.
Deposit Request Processing Fee (per request)	\$300.00 when request is Declined, Displaced, Invalid, Refused, Retracted, or Withdrawn. No fee when request is Confirmed and Executed.
System Impact Study Fee	\$10,000 up front payment trued-up to actual charges.
Facilities Study Fee	\$10,000 up front payment trued-up to actual charges.
Cluster Study Fee	\$10,000 up front payment trued-up to actual charges (allocated on an equal basis among participants).
Large Generator Interconnection (costs trued-up to actual or carried forward to next phase of process)	
Application Review Deposit	\$10,000
Interconnection Feasibility Study Fee	\$10,000
Interconnection System Impact Study Fee	\$50,000
Interconnection Facilities Study Fee	\$100,000
Small Generator Interconnection (see Attachment J-2 of Tariff)	

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Billing Practices

Transmission service (*e.g.*, Point-to-Point or Network Integration) is billed one month in arrears, typically within the first five (5) business days of the month following the provision of service. Payments are delinquent if not made within twenty (20) days of issuance of the invoice. Per Attachment M of the Tariff, customers are billed the projected annual rates for Bulk and Sub-transmission as specified in an annual informational filing on November 1st of each year (projecting the following year's rates). Yearly and monthly transmission service, if not offered at a discounted rate, will be billed monthly using the current projected transmission rate for the billing month. In May of each calendar year, the previous calendar year transmission rate is calculated with actual cost and load data and trued-up with the charges billed for all long-term transmission service during that previous year.

Interconnection O&M charges are billed on an estimated basis during each calendar year and trued-up annually. Interconnection administration fees are contract specific and billed on a monthly basis.

Southern Company Transmission performs certain transmission and interconnection studies for customers. Actual study costs are accumulated by the Transmission Financial and Accounting Services department and billed separately from the normal settlement activity. Prepayment of study costs is typically requested from the transmission customer before any work is initiated. At the completion of the study, and when actual costs have been accumulated, the customer will be invoiced or refunded the difference between the prepayment and actual study costs.

Invoice Details

The invoice contains the following information:

1. The Southern Company corporate logo.
2. The Southern Company Transmission invoice number. This number will be used as an external and internal tracking identification tool.
3. The customer billing address as provided to Southern Company Transmission through the customer registration process. This information, in addition to the invoice number and the contact person, will also be used for invoice identification purposes.
4. The invoice date is the date the payment terms commence. For example, an invoice dated August 2, 2008 would be due for remittance within 20 calendar days from August 2, 2008 (*i.e.*, August 22, 2008). If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday, the actual due date would fall to the next official business day.
5. Amount due for services under the Southern Companies' Tariff.

Remittance Information

1. *Wire or ACH Transfers* – As required by Section 7.1 of the Tariff, “All payments shall be made in immediately available funds payable to the Transmission Provider, or by wire transfer to a bank named by the Transmission Provider.” The electronic funds information is Southern Company Transmission's bank account number where electronic funds and/or wires can be deposited (*see*, “Invoice Payment Methods” section below).
2. *Billing customer service* – Southern Company Transmission is dedicated to providing excellent customer service. If you have any questions regarding your invoice and/or billing information, please contact our customer service representative shown on the invoice.

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3. *Federal Tax ID* – Southern Company Transmission’s tax identification number is provided to our Network Integration Transmission Service customers for informational purposes in case it is needed by a customer’s accounts payable department.

Invoice Payment Methods

All customers are expected to pay the full invoiced amount each month, per the Tariff. Customers may wire payment funds directly to Southern Company Transmission using the following wire instructions:

Financial Institution: Bank of America, Dallas, TX
ABA Number: ACH: 111000012
Wire: 026009593
For Credit to: TPO - Transmission
Account Number: 3751237776

The Tariff requires that all invoice payments are to be received in immediately available funds. However, customers have the option to pay their transmission invoices via check even though a check is not considered to be immediately available funds. To effectuate such payments by check customers are requested to present their checks ten (10) days before the invoice due date. This ten (10) day period provides time to deposit the check and for it to clear the customer’s bank account, thus permitting the payment to be considered immediately available funds as of the invoice due date. If a customer presents payment via check within the ten (10) day period, it will be deposited according to Southern Company Transmission procedures, but may not be immediately available funds as of the invoice due date.

Late Payments and Customer Defaults

In accordance with Section 7.3 of the Tariff, transmission customers are considered to be in default if all or part of a non-disputed invoice amount has not been paid on or before the invoice due date. Southern Company Transmission will send failure to pay notices to customers that have not paid their invoices on time. Southern Company Transmission grants a cure period of five (5) days after the invoice due date to allow for curing late payments. If it is determined that the customer will not make the appropriate funds available, the customer’s eligible collateral (*e.g.*, letter of credit or parent guaranty) will be drawn to complete the required payment after the cure period. Upon receiving payment for a late account, an interest calculation will be used to determine interest that will appear on the following month’s invoice.

In accordance with Section 7.2 of the Tariff, interest on any unpaid amounts (including amounts placed in escrow) shall be calculated in accordance with the methodology specified for interest on refunds in the Commission’s regulations at 18 C.F.R. § 35.19a(a)(2)(iii). Interest on delinquent amounts shall be calculated from the due date of the invoice to the date of payment.

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a billing dispute between the Transmission Provider and the transmission customer, the Transmission Provider will continue to provide service under the Service Agreement as long as the transmission customer (i) continues to make all payments not in dispute, and (ii) pays into an independent escrow account the portion of the invoice in dispute, pending resolution of such dispute.

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Any dispute between a transmission customer and Southern Company Transmission must be initiated prior to the invoice due date. This process begins by completing the [Southern Billing Dispute Identification Questionnaire](#) posted on OASIS and emailing it to the Southern Companies' contact identified on the form.

Transmission Service Application Deposits

As documented in Section 17.3 of the Tariff, a completed application for Firm Point-To-Point Transmission Service also shall include a deposit of either one month's charge for reserved capacity or the full charge for reserved capacity for service requests of less than one month. Section 29.2 of the Tariff provides that an application for Network Integration Transmission Service shall include a deposit approximating the charge for one month of service.

Penalties for Unreserved Use of the Transmission System

Consistent with FERC's direction in Order No. 890 and effective as of July 13, 2007, the penalty rate for all unreserved usage of the Transmission System **including both Network Integration Service and Point-to-Point Transmission Service** is **200%** unless otherwise specified in the customer's transmission service agreement.¹ Additionally, in accordance with Order No. 890, penalties for unreserved use are based on the Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service rate as follows:

***Daily Rate** (applicable On-Peak or Off-Peak) - for unreserved use on one or more hours in a calendar day.*

***Weekly Rate** - for unreserved use on more than one day in a calendar week.*

***Monthly Rate** - for unreserved use on more than one day in two calendar weeks during a calendar month (i.e., the 2nd instance of a weekly penalty during the calendar month).*

Additionally, the capacity value used in the penalty charge calculation will be the maximum amount of the unreserved usage during the assessment period. For example, the capacity multiplied by the weekly rate will be the maximum hourly unreserved use during the calendar week.

Partial calendar weeks at the first and last of a calendar month will be considered to be a calendar week in the determination of the number of unreserved use occurrences.

For **Ancillary Services**, a 200% penalty for unreserved use will be applied at the posted hourly rates for all hours not appropriately reserved and scheduled.

Examples

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. OVER-SCHEDULE | Schedule = 100 MW (as shown on E-Tag)
Reservation = 90 MW (Confirmed on OASIS) |
| | Unreserved Use = Schedule – Reservation
Unreserved Use = 100 – 90 |

¹ The 200% penalty applies to both Network Integration and Point-to-Point Transmission Service. See, *Southern Company Services, Inc.*, 123 FERC ¶ 61,030 (April 14, 2008) (“Order Accepting Compliance Filing, As Modified”) at PP 15, 16.

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Unreserved Use = 10 MW

2. OVER-REDIRECT

Original Reservation = 100 MW (Confirmed on OASIS)

Redirect Reservation₍₁₎ = 90 MW(Confirmed on OASIS)

Redirect Reservation₍₂₎ = 50 MW

Unreserved Use = \sum (Redirect Reservations) - Original – Reservation

Unreserved Use = 140 – 100

Unreserved Use = 40 MW

As a result of manual processing, Southern Company Transmission may inadvertently approve an E-Tag that contains inaccuracies submitted by the transmission customer. This inadvertent approval in no way relieves the customer of the requirement to supply accurate scheduling information. The transmission customer is still subject to the imposition of an unreserved use penalty, where warranted, regardless of E-Tag approval by Southern Company Transmission. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the transmission customer to ensure the appropriate transmission capacity is reserved and correctly scheduled.

If the transmission customer believes that a penalty has been applied in error, the customer should complete the [Southern Billing Dispute Identification Questionnaire](#) posted on OASIS and email it to the Southern Companies' contact identified on the form.

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Practices for Responding to Short-Term Transmission Requests

Both Transmission Provider and customer reservation response times are defined in FERC Order No. 638. Southern Company Transmission processes OASIS service requests manually.

Additional Info Regarding Daily Firm Requests

FERC Order No. 638 lists the response requirement for Daily Firm requests within 24 hours as “Best Effort”. Southern Company Transmission usually begins processing next day Daily Firm requests around 6:30 am (Central Prevailing Time). Responses are based on posted transfer capability at that time and the customer response time dictates how quickly subsequent requests are answered. On Friday mornings, processing requests for both Saturday and Sunday usually begins around 6:30 am. Subsequently, typically beginning around 11:00 am Friday (*i.e.*, after the Monday Total Transfer Capability values have been updated), Daily Firm requests for Monday shall be processed. Reference is made to the “Advance Processing of Daily Requests” section below for details on responding to Daily requests submitted more than two days ahead of the reservation start time.

Processing Daily Requests prior to Holidays

Daily transmission service requests for a holiday and the day following such holiday shall be processed on the business day occurring prior to such holiday beginning around 6:30 a.m. (Central Prevailing Time). For multi-day holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve/Christmas day all of the Daily requests for the holiday period will be processed on the last business day before the holiday period begins.

Advance Processing of Daily Requests

Southern Company Transmission will answer all "advance requests" for Daily Firm service as follows:

At least twice each week (normally on Monday and Thursday), Southern Company Transmission will answer all requests for Daily service beginning four (4) days from the date on which "advance processing" takes place. Answers will be based on the posted ATC values at the time advance processing takes place. Processing will continue until all Daily requests queued up through the start date for the current advance processing tasks have been resolved to a final state. By consistently capping the "age" of Daily requests in the queue, the number of "stale" requests should be minimized and overall response time for next-day business should be reduced.

Priority for Short-Term, Pre-Confirmed Service Requests

Pursuant to Order No. 890, pre-confirmed requests for short-term firm and non-firm service will be given priority over non pre-confirmed competing requests of the same class, type, and duration. To limit disruptions in transmission operations, pre-confirmed requests for:

- a. **hourly and Daily** service that are submitted less than 5 minutes prior to Southern Company Transmission's acceptance of a previously queued non pre-confirmed competing service request of comparable duration will not pre-empt the non pre-confirmed competing service request; and

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- b. **weekly and monthly** service that are submitted less than 1 hour prior to the Transmission Provider's acceptance of a previously queued non pre-confirmed competing service request of comparable duration will not pre-empt the non pre-confirmed competing service request.

This business practice is intended to reduce delays in processing requests as a result of restudies triggered by last minute submittals of pre-confirmed service. Firm network transmission service reservations and Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service requests will be treated on a comparable priority basis after the conditional acceptance period has expired for the Point-to-Point Transmission Service.

Example 1: A previously queued, non pre-confirmed Daily service request is being evaluated and Southern Company Transmission is preparing to place that service in "ACCEPTED" status when a pre-confirmed competing request is submitted. Southern Company Transmission will accept the previously queued, non pre-confirmed Daily service request within 5 minutes of the submittal of the pre-confirmed request. Once ACCEPTED the offer will not be "RETRACTED". If the ACCEPTED request is not confirmed then the pre-confirmed request will pre-empt any other previously queued, non pre-confirmed competing requests that are still pending.

Example 2: A pre-confirmed Daily Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service request is submitted less than 24 hours from commencement (after the conditional acceptance period has expired). Such a request will pre-empt any earlier queued competing non pre-confirmed point-to-point or Firm network requests that are more than 5 minutes from being "ACCEPTED" on OASIS.

Short-Term Requests Extending beyond OASIS Postings

Any requests for short-term Firm transmission service extending beyond service periods that are posted on OASIS will be invalidated. Only requests for long-term Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service or Network Integration Transmission Service will be evaluated for service periods beyond what is posted on OASIS at the time the requests are submitted.

Duplicate Request Policy

Duplicate requests by the same customer exceeding posted Available Transfer Capability for an interface will be invalidated. Duplicate requests are defined as requests for the same product having the same POR and POD, over a common service period. This policy is intended to promote fair and timely access to available offerings for all market participants.

Requirements for Designating/Undesignating Network Resources

Please refer to the ["Procedures for Reserving Transmission Capacity for Future Load Growth, Designating/Undesignating Network Resources, and Arranging for Other Related Services"](#) business practice posted on OASIS.

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Reservation & Scheduling Information

Source/Sink Requirements for Reservations

In accordance with Attachment L to the Tariff, all transmission customers taking Point-to-Point Transmission Service under the Tariff must submit OASIS reservations and schedules that designate specific and valid sources and sinks.

Southern Companies Redirect Procedures

Requirements for redirecting Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service are summarized below.

1. In accordance with Commission policy set forth in Order No. 890 (P 1285), **any request to redirect a Point-to-Point reservation (in whole or in part) on a firm or secondary basis shall be treated as a new request** for service in accordance with Tariff Section 17 and should be submitted on OASIS with a Request Type of “REDIRECT.”
2. Any redirect request on a firm or secondary basis must indicate the AREF of the original or previously redirected reservation in the RELATED_REF field and must be **Pre-confirmed**.
3. An original or previously redirected firm request must be confirmed and have passed its conditional acceptance deadline to be redirected on a firm or secondary basis.
4. The confirmed price for the ORIGINAL reservation applies to all subsequent redirected service.
5. A redirect request on a firm or secondary basis must match an existing type of Point-to-Point Transmission Service (*e.g.*, Daily, Weekly, Monthly) with **the same or lesser service increment** than the original or previously redirected request. The start and stop times must fall within the boundaries of the original or previously redirected reservation. For example, a 4-month Monthly Firm Point-to-Point Transmission Service reservation may be redirected to a Monthly Firm, Weekly Firm, Daily Firm, or Hourly Secondary point-to-point reservation with a request type of “REDIRECT.”
6. Once a redirect request is confirmed, capacity redirected from the path will be offered to the market at transmission service levels with a priority equal to or less than the redirect request.
7. No rollover rights shall attach to redirected service increments not extending to the end of the service period. In cases where the rollover notice period has expired and a request to redirect service extends to the end of the term of the original reservation, the customer will only have a temporary short-term re-direct and rollover rights (if any) shall remain on the previous path.
8. If the rollover notice period has not expired, as part of a request to redirect transmission service the customer may request to have rollover capability evaluated on the new path by noting in the customer comment field “Long-Term Redirect.”
9. For all requests for long-term redirects to the end of the term of the original service agreement submitted prior to expiration of the rollover notice period, a System Impact Study/Facilities Study will be required at the customer’s expense and a new service agreement must be executed for the redirected service. The new service agreement will address any applicable rollover rights and associated limitations on the proposed path identified in the studies.

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Southern Release Procedures²

Requirements for releasing secondary Point-to-Point Transmission Service are summarized below. If you have any questions, please contact Southern Companies' [OASIS Administrator](#).

1. A release request is only valid for secondary Point-to-Point Transmission Service.
2. Secondary point-to-point must have a request type of REDIRECT to be released.
3. A release request will be processed as an original request.
4. A release request must be submitted as follows:
 - a. A release should be submitted on OASIS with a REQUEST_TYPE of "RELEASE."
 - b. A release request must indicate the AREF of the reservation being released in the RELATED_REF element.
 - c. A release request must be Pre-Confirmed.
 - d. A release request's ANCILLARY_SERVICE_LINK element value will be copied by the system from the reservation being released.
 - e. A release request's capacity requested profile must be a subset of future increments of the reservation being released. For example, an hourly secondary point-to-point may have a 24 hour profile which maybe released for any number of hours within the 24 hour time frame before the start time. If the reservation has already started for the day then only the future increments may be released.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A release request's capacity profile must be the profile that the customer wants the reservation to look like after the release and not the capacity profile the customer wants to be released.
 - f. A release request's remaining elements must match those of the reservation being released.
5. Once a release request is confirmed, capacity on the reservation being released will be altered and the released capacity will no longer be available on the released reservation.
6. Once a release request is confirmed, capacity released from that path will be offered to the market at the transmission service levels with a priority equal to or less than the release reservation.
7. Once a release request is confirmed, capacity of the related request will be updated for the amount of the release and then can subsequently be scheduled, redirected or resold.
8. Once a release request is confirmed that status cannot be changed.

Tagging Requirements

All tags submitted for approval by Southern Company Transmission must follow NERC INT Standards and E-Tag Specifications (latest specifications can be found through the NERC website). Southern Company Transmission approves E-Tags manually with some automated validation processes. E-Tags must include, among other things, valid OASIS reservations, source/sink pairs, ramp start/stop time, duration, MW profile and appropriate energy losses. To ensure adequate time for approval, all valid E-tags must be submitted no later than 20 minutes prior to the top of the hour for which the schedule is to start. Valid E-Tags submitted after the deadline may be accommodated if practical. In cases where a

² The requirements are summarized from the NAESB standard 001-10.5.3.

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source is lost or during a curtailment, tagged capacity may be **reduced** during the current hour. Other adjustments (including reloads after a previously accepted intra-hour adjustment) may only take place at the top of the hour preceding the change.

Energy Loss Rounding Practices

For all E-Tags submitted of more than one-hour duration, energy losses are based on the total MWhrs scheduled and are rounded up for a remainder of 0.5 MW or higher. For E-Tags of only one hour duration, MW energy losses are rounded up for a remainder of 0.1 MW or higher.

Transmission Resale

Sale or Assignment of Transmission Service is governed by Section 23 of the Tariff. The resale of Transmission Service is facilitated through OASIS whereby Transmission Customers may post offerings to re-sell their Transmission Capacity and eligible Assignees may reserve transmission against the posted offerings. In accordance with Order No. 890, there is no price cap on resale offerings.

To be eligible to purchase transmission from a third party, an Assignee must be a registered user (*i.e.*, Eligible Customer) of Southern Company Transmission, have a valid umbrella resale service agreement with Southern Company Transmission for the products being purchased and meet the Creditworthiness requirements of the Tariff. An umbrella Attachment A-1 (without the specification sheet) between Assignee and Southern Company Transmission must be in place for short-term, interim resales or assignments of service. In accordance with FERC policy, Section 23.1 of the OATT provides:

The Assignee must execute a service agreement with the Transmission Provider governing reassignments of transmission service prior to the date on which the reassigned service commences.

To further facilitate the secondary transmission market Southern Companies will invoice the Assignee based on the final Bid price of the re-purchased transmission and Southern Company Transmission assumes the final Bid price includes all associated ancillary services. Any dispute concerning the final Bid price must be resolved between the Reseller and the Assignee. The Reseller will be invoiced for its Transmission Service in accordance with the terms and conditions of its service agreement with Southern Company Transmission. Once the Assignee pays its Southern Company Transmission invoice a credit will be posted to the Reseller's account with Southern Company Transmission. *See, Southern Company Services*, 123 FERC ¶ 61,030, P 32 (2008).

Permanent Resale or Assignment

For permanent sale or assignment of long-term service, the Assignee should submit a new ORIGINAL reservation on OASIS for the service being assumed with customer comments "Assignment of AREF" where the AREF matches the reservation AREF of the Reseller's transmission capacity. The Assignee will then need to execute with Southern Company Transmission a new service agreement in the form of Attachment A-1 of the Tariff. Upon verification with the Reseller through a "Consent to Assign Agreement" and execution of the new service agreement, Southern Company Transmission will "DISPLACE" the Reseller's assigned capacity on OASIS, amend the Reseller's service agreement accordingly and the Reseller will no longer have any obligation to Southern Company Transmission for the re-assigned capacity. A sample "[Consent to Assign Agreement](#)" is posted on OASIS.

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Schedule Termination

If the scheduling entity desires to expedite a schedule termination, the scheduling entity shall contact the sink control area to request the schedule termination. Southern Company Transmission shall cooperate with the sink control area and the sink security coordinator to implement a schedule termination as quickly as practicable consistent with NERC interchange and inadvertent energy accounting policies. A telephone call to the Southern Company Transmission Interchange Coordinator (205-257-6302) should be made to inform the Interchange Coordinator that an expedited schedule termination has been requested and to provide the Interchange Coordinator with a listing of the Tags affected by the expedited schedule termination.