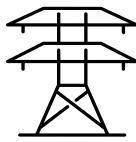


# Markets+ Fact Sheet:

## The Stitching, Not the Seam

### Seams 101: Seams Aren't Scary!

A seam is simply a point where two neighboring utilities or grid operators meet. Like a state border on a map, it's a boundary that exists on paper. In the real world, electricity doesn't recognize or stop flowing at these points, which creates a need for effective coordination. When seams are managed well, as they will be under Markets+, everyone wins:



#### Reliable Energy

Effective seams management enables a region to leverage resources across a larger footprint during extreme weather, ensuring power flows where it's needed most. More coordination = more reliability.



#### Economic Impact

Markets+ is designed to optimize power flow across the entire footprint, meaning you pay for actual system use, not for crossing lines on a map.



#### Portfolio Diversity

Coordinated seams management unlocks geographic diversity, providing access to more stable, affordable and clean energy.



### Seams Management Strengthens Reliability

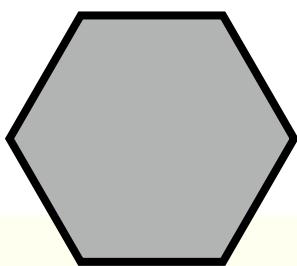
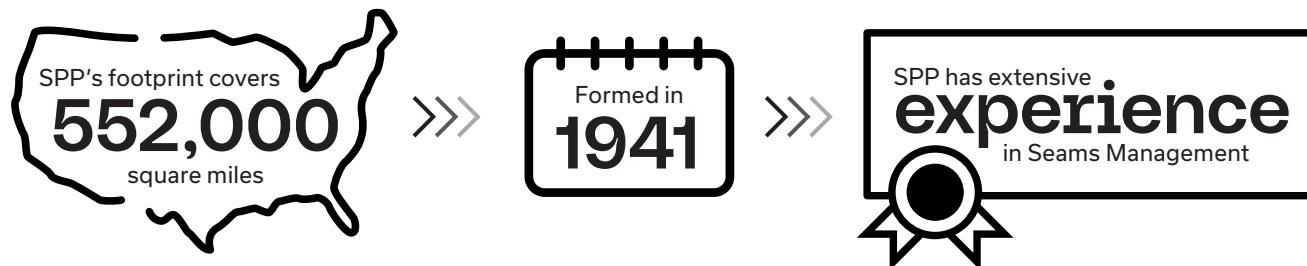
The Western Interconnection has more than 30 seams today between balancing authorities and transmission providers. These seams aren't going away, but effective management transforms them from potential friction points into coordination opportunities. SPP has managed seams across 552,000 square miles since 1941 with zero reliability compromises. Markets+ isn't going to create new seams in the West, it will become the stitching that binds them together.

## A single market doesn't eliminate seams

Seams between utilities, transmission operators, pricing zones, and other entities would continue to exist even under a single regional market construct. The real question isn't "how many markets is best for the west," it's "how effectively and transparently does each market address the challenges and opportunities related to seams management".

## Managing Seams Enhances Reliability and Unlocks Western Benefits

Southwest Power Pool (SPP) has decades of experience coordinating market transactions and regional reliability across seams. We've applied that expertise in helping our stakeholders design Markets+ to minimize risks and maximize the opportunities that effective seams management creates across the West. Western stakeholders design the market; SPP provides the operational platform.

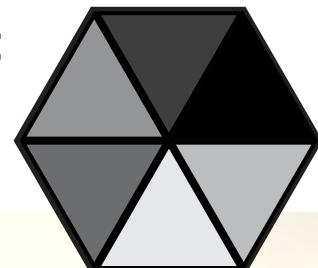


### Single-Market Region

- No choice
- No accountability
- Structural bias

### Multi-Market Region

- Multiple options
- Checks and balances
- Price transparency



## Collaboration in Action: The Markets+ Seams Working Group

The Markets+ Seams Working Group (MSWG) brings together utilities, transmission providers and market participants from across the West to develop practical solutions for seams management. The group has already:

- Identified friction points at existing BA and TSP seams
- Developed coordination protocols for reliability and economic transfers
- Designed market rules that reduce seams friction while respecting local control
- Established pathways for coordination with CAISO and other market operators

This collaborative approach ensures Markets+ reflects Western needs—not a one-size-fits-all mandate. Every participant has a voice. Every concern gets addressed. That's how you build trust and deliver results.