PJM Interconnection’s day-to-day operations and interactions with its members are outlined in a group of governing documents.

PJM’s governing documents provide for the reliability of the bulk electric system and the administration of the region’s wholesale power markets.

The governing documents are the Open Access Transmission Tariff, the Operating Agreement, the Reliability Assurance Agreement and the Transmission Owners Agreement. They define the roles, responsibilities, authority and obligations of PJM and its members.

PJM, because of the special role it plays in the operation of the power grid, occasionally is mistaken for a regulatory agency. But it is not a regulator. Like many electric utilities, PJM is actually a regulated company. Its activities, like those of other regional grid operators, are overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and its governing documents require FERC approval.

A series of PJM manuals detail the operating, planning, accounting and administrative procedures that PJM and its members follow. The manuals provide the road map that guides PJM in carrying out the mission established in the governing documents.

Open Access Transmission Tariff

The Tariff guides the overall operation of PJM and includes the provisions for transmission service within the region. PJM and its transmission-owning members, as required by the Tariff, must provide market participants with open, non-discriminatory access to the region’s high-voltage transmission system to allow for fair and competitive wholesale electricity markets.

Operating Agreement

To become a member of PJM, an organization must sign the Operating Agreement. It establishes how PJM operates as a regional transmission organization. It defines the roles and responsibilities of the PJM Board of Managers and the Members Committee. It also provides for the Office of the Interconnection, which carries out the provisions of the governing documents in managing PJM’s operations, markets and planning.

Reliability Assurance Agreement

This document is signed by all of the load-serving entities in the PJM region and establishes obligations and standards for maintaining the reliable operation of the electric grid in the PJM territory. Load-serving entities, or LSEs,
are the organizations that sell electricity to end-use customers. The agreement provides for the procurement of adequate capacity resources, assistance during emergencies and planning for the future needs of the system.

**Transmission Owners Agreement**
This agreement is signed by the transmission-owning members of PJM. These members own transmission facilities or lease them with rights that are equivalent to ownership. The agreement provides for the coordinated planning and operation of high-voltage transmission assets in the PJM region, transfers some planning and operating responsibilities to PJM and establishes regional transmission service as outlined in the PJM Tariff.

**PJM Manuals**
As stated in the manuals: “The PJM Manuals are the instructions, rules, procedures, and guidelines established by PJM for the operation, planning, and accounting requirements of PJM and the PJM Energy Market.” PJM staff administers the manuals and routinely seeks stakeholders’ endorsement of proposed changes. Manual 34, which covers the stakeholder process, includes a schedule for reviewing and updating the manuals, although the staff conducts out-of-cycle updates as needed.

**Online Access**
PJM has developed web-based versions of the governing documents, which are easy to access and search. (See image below.) The PJM manuals also are available on PJM’s website.

---

**Governing Documents**
PJM has agreements with stakeholders to ensure the reliability of the electric power grid. The agreements are with members, independent system operators, regional transmission organizations, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

Amendments accepted or pending by FERC can be found on the Effective Documents page.

- **OAT** Open Access Transmission Tariff
  - The tariff is the overall document that governs the operations of PJM. It includes the provisions governing transmission service within the PJM region. The tariff and revisions to it and the other governing documents are subject to acceptance by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the agency that regulates PJM and the other regional grid organizations.

- **OA** Operating Agreement
  - The Operating Agreement must be signed by all organizations wishing to become a member of PJM. It contains provisions that establish how PJM operates as a regional transmission organization. It defines the rules and responsibilities of the PJM Board of Managers, the Members Committee and the Office of the Interconnection (PJM management and staff).

- **RAA** Reliability Assurance Agreement
  - The Reliability Assurance Agreement, signed by all the organizations in PJM that sell electricity to end-use customers, establishes obligations and standards for maintaining the reliable operation of the electric grid. It includes provisions that deal with ensuring adequate capacity resources, providing assistance during emergencies and planning for the future needs of the system.