SPP Hosts Smart Grid Workshop

In August, SPP and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) hosted a workshop on “Smart Grid Demonstrations for Integrating Distributed Resources” to address the variety of barriers and incompatibilities associated with full integration of distributed resources, e.g. local storage, demand response, load control, distributed generation, and renewables into system operations. The workshop focused on:

- Regional drivers and challenges for distributed resource integration
- Activities to integrate distributed resources in grid and market systems
- Existing and planned smart grid demonstrations

The goal was to identify how SPP can work with its members to identify potential growth of smart grid initiatives within the footprint. According to Mark Rogers, Senior Policy Analyst, “Participants, including a number of organizational group members, were encouraged by the amount of dialogue that took place. SPP and our members are defining our role in this new era of the electrical utility industry.” Contact Mark Rogers at 501.614.1648 for more information about smart grid initiatives.

NERC Seeks Trustee Nominations

NERC’s Member Representatives Committee and Board of Trustees approved an amendment to its bylaws that would give the board the authority to increase the number of independent trustees from 10 to 11. The board indicated its intention to exercise that authority this fall when the amendment is approved by FERC. Of the four positions open for election, two will be re-nominations of existing board members, and two will be new appointees. Nominations should be submitted to the search firm Spencer Stuart by September 18, 2009. Read a NERC letter with details on the election process and trustee qualifications.

STEP Summit Well-Attended

SPP’s Fall 2009 Transmission Expansion Planning Summit was held in New Orleans on August 12 in conjunction with Entergy’s Fall Summit. Staff and stakeholders discussed 100kV-and-above transmission solutions for the 2009 SPP Transmission Expansion Plan (STEP); a 10-Year Regional Reliability Study; the incorporation of SPP’s existing planning processes into the new Integrated Transmission Planning (ITP) process; the Real-Time Ratings (RTR) effort to enable transmission efficiency and improve asset utilization; methods to improve SPP’s modeling process and reduce the number of planning models; and other methods to test the reliability of the SPP system.

The Month in Review

Change Working Group: The CWG held a face-to-face meeting Rock at the Arkansas Electric Cooperatives facility in Little Rock on August 6 to discuss member-impacting projects and timelines.
Staff presentations covered SPP’s project recommendation and prioritization process; an historical overview of SPP’s IT organization which included a discussion of future efforts related to High Availability and Future Markets; an overview of the Market Operations environments; and the monthly model update process.

The CWG also held a special conference call on August 20 to discuss the delay in the Transmission Settlements Replacement project. This project has been challenged by scope and schedule changes but is now under the direction of Project Manager Chuck Jennings. The CWG agreed with the Outreach team’s approval of a new timeline with a December 4 go-live.

The CWG will hold a special meeting on September 24 to discuss High Availability, and has moved the regularly scheduled meeting to October 8 so as not to conflict with the Market Working Group meeting.

Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee: The CBASC continued discussions on capacity requirements for a ramp validation process to be included in the design for Future Markets. The group also participated in an overview presentation and discussion of IT changes/enhancements that are needed for successful operation of a Consolidated Balancing Authority (CBA). Additional discussion was held to determine the business continuity requirements for the CBA, which will be among the drivers in the IT system changes.

Cost Allocation Working Group: During two meetings held in August (8/13 and 8/26), the CAWG noted waning stakeholder support for a two-part rate design after consideration of the impacts of a generation component. The group remains open to other Load + Generation rate proposals, but none have yet been tendered. Empire District submitted a proposal for utilizing a modified Base Plan funding methodology for cost allocation of Priority Projects. Finally, an OMPA waiver request was presented, for which the CAWG recommended approval.

Economic Studies Working Group: The Economic Studies Working Group has been working to finalize details on the wind modeling techniques and metrics used in the Priority Projects analysis. In addition, the ESWG completed work on the Benefit Analysis Techniques Task Force report on Priority Projects analysis and published a final copy that was presented to the MOPC on August 14.

Integrated Transmission Planning: SPP Staff conducted a joint meeting between the TWG, ESWG, and other interested stakeholders on August 20 in Kansas City, MO to discuss the on-going development of the Integrated Transmission Planning (ITP) process. Staff reviewed the working process document with stakeholders and received feedback for suggested edits to the process. A great deal of momentum was achieved in developing the process, so Staff conducted a follow-up conference call with stakeholders on August 21 to continue the discussions.

Staff also presented an update on the Priority Projects effort that outlined how the proposed projects would be studied and what projects would be grouped with other projects for the analysis. Stakeholders suggested minor changes to the groupings of projects, and Staff advised that the suggestions would be incorporated into the analysis.

Market and Operations Policy Committee: The MOPC had a special meeting on August 14, at which they approved for use a set of metrics for calculating the benefits of Priority Projects.

Market Working Group: During two August sessions, the MWG decided to have “make whole payments” in the Day Ahead market to encourage participation in unit commitment. The group decided to keep energy at the same calculation level, however, settlement statements will continue to be produced at an hourly granularity. SPP will calculate the real-time imbalance market at the same level as the dispatch and Ancillary Service market clearing process, which is 5-minute. SPP will accept hourly integrated meter data and utilize the telemetry values from supervisory control and data acquisition of each asset to profile the output of each resource into 5-minute values. If real-time telemetry is not available for a settlement location, state estimator values will be utilized.

The MWG reached a settlement on how to handle transmission congestion rights. The group also reviewed the Future Market Decision Matrix and Protocols. The MWG will conduct MOPC training sessions October 12-13 prior to the October MOPC meeting. The training will include a Future Market update and a separate session on congestion hedging.

Operating Reliability Working Group: The ORWG continues to review decisions made by the MWG in their work on the protocols for the Future Market. Topics include deliverability of contingency
and regulation reserves within the Consolidated Balancing Authority and the interaction of that with a day-ahead market and centralized unit commitment.

**Operations Training Working Group:** The Operations Training Working Group formed a Job Task Analysis Task Force (JTATF) to draft high-level job task lists for various operations roles and write objectives for the reliability-related tasks that are identified. The JTATF will conduct meetings to review the applicable job roles and associated job tasks identified in the NERC Reliability Functional Model v.4. Edgar Rivera discussed a current project (NASPInet) being conducted by the Department of Energy and NERC.

**Regional Tariff Working Group:** At their August 27th meeting, the RTWG approved Tariff language revisions required by FERC Order No. 719-A, the Interim Large Generator Interconnection Procedure and Agreement with some modifications, and the Generation Queue Task Force Tariff language revisions required for a compliance filing with FERC. They also discussed the proposed Delivery Point Addition Tariff language and requested that more revisions be made.

**System Protection and Control Working Group:** SPP’s Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) Standard Drafting Team has completed the second draft of the regional standard for SPP’s UFLS program. On August 31, 2009, the Standard Drafting Team posted the draft on SPP’s website for a 30-day comment period: SPP UFLS Regional Standard Second Draft. The team also posted their response to the comments received on Draft 1 of this standard: Response to 1st Draft Comments. The UFLS Standard Drafting Team will meet at the conclusion of the 30-day comment period to review the comments received for the second draft of the Regional Standard. The team will then decide whether to move forward with the second draft or create another draft based on the comments received.

**Transmission Working Group:** At their August 5-6 meeting, the TWG discussed several topics, including revisions to Criteria 4 to account for ATC process changes and draft Stability Criteria. The group voted to leave the long-term PTDF threshold factor at 3%. One major item will be addressed on the TWG’s September 15 conference call: the review of the Reliability Analysis on Priority Projects.

**Other Meetings**

**Model Development Working Group**

**September Meetings**

- September 2 - Operating Reliability Working Group
- September 3 - Business Practices Working Group Teleconference
- September 3 – Integrated Transmission Planning Stakeholder Teleconference
- September 4 – Market Working Group Protocols Review Web Conference
- September 8 - Corporate Governance Committee
- September 8 - Regional Tariff Working Group Web Conference / Teleconference
- September 9 - Cost Allocation Working Group
- September 11 - Market Working Group Protocols Review Web Conference
- September 14 - Operations Training Working Group Teleconference
- September 15/16 - Sub-Regional System Restoration Drill North
- September 16 - Model Development Working Group Web Conference
- September 17 - SPP Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee
- September 21/23 - Market Working Group
- September 21 - Finance Committee
- September 23 - Board of Directors and SPPT Teleconference
September 23 - Cost Allocation Working Group
September 24 - Regional Tariff Working Group
September 24 - Oversight Committee
September 24 - Operating Reliability Working Group Teleconference
September 24 - PRR181 Training - Native Load and Portfolio Scheduling (NLPS)
September 24 - Change Working Group Teleconference
September 25 - Market Working Group Teleconference

September 29/30 - Sub-Regional System Restoration Drill East
September 29 - SPP Priority Projects Workshop

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For more information about a group, please visit SPP.org and select that committee on the Org Groups page. Documents are located in the left column.

Please contact Emily Pennel in the Communications Department with questions or comments about The Org Report.

SPP Calendar
The Org Report Back Issues
SPP Governing Documents