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OTWG Forms Job Task Analysis Taskforce

A Job Task Analysis (JTA) Taskforce was formed by the Operations Training Working Group to investigate the development and implementation of a core JTA and a customized template to be used throughout the SPP footprint. JTAs provide a list of all job tasks conducted by operations personnel so that performance gaps can be identified and appropriate training designed to minimize those gaps.

The group recommended that a consultant develop the core JTA, and members will have the option of purchasing a job task database. The JTA is a daunting task that SPP might be able to facilitate at the regional level. SPP Center of Excellence Director Bill Wylie will be consulted on this project.

Wind Coalition Presentation to CAWG

The Cost Allocation Working Group heard a presentation from Rick Walker of Sustainable Energy Strategies on behalf of The Wind Coalition, a non-profit association that encourages the development of wind energy resources in the south central United States.

The presentation was made to the CAWG to inform them of the cost benefit analysis of wind energy. According to The Wind Coalition, the SPP region has some of the greatest and most abundant wind resources in the country, but current cost recovery protocols for economic transmission projects have resulted in very few projects. The wind industry supports the concept of base funding for these projects. Assurance of cost recovery for transmission owners is necessary for construction of a reliable and efficient transmission grid. Improved transmission reduces constraints and facilitates efficient delivery of the most economic resources, reducing costs to the end user.

NERC/NAESB Update

On April 19, SPP was one of nine Regional Entities approved by FERC. SPP will now begin mandatory enforcement of 83 NERC reliability standards for the SPP bulk power system. Beginning June 4, SPP will have the authority to set financial penalties against registered entities that violate standards. SPP will amend its Bylaws to ensure adequate separation and independence of the Regional Entity functions from its operational functions, as required by the FERC Order.

SPP and six other ISO/RTOs have been elected to serve on the NAESB Board and the Wholesale Electric Quadrant Executive Committee. NAESB is playing an important role in OASIS issues and establishing new standards under OATT reform. ISO/RTOs representation in NAESB will improve the coordination of NAESB standards with ISO/RTO tariff requirements and market rules.
The Month In Review

Board of Directors/Members Committee, 4/24: The Board of Directors began a discussion on Demand Response requirements, and delayed final action on External Generators plan for the market pending resolution of outstanding issues. The group also voted to add a Roth option to the employee 401(k) plan, and approved additional financing to fund capital expenditures. There will be a special meeting in June to address Bylaws changes related to implementation of the Regional Entity status and elect Regional Entity trustees.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group 4/3: The CIPWG approved revisions to the group’s scope, including a change in membership criteria. They also discussed increasing membership and participation for this working group, along with Cyber Security Standards training, CIP Standards Compliance Status, and copper theft. DHS will provide SPP with a list of DHS State Protective Security Advisors for the SPP footprint, and the workshop team will prepare for the CIP standards workshop agenda.

Cost Allocation Working Group, 4/25: Along with The Wind Coalition presentation, there was a follow-up discussion of the Economic portfolio method and a presentation of Inter-Zonal and Intra-Zonal allocation methods for benefit versus cost analysis.

Finance Committee, 4/12, 4/18: The Finance Committee accepted the 2006 audit report and 2007 financing strategy, which will include issuance of a $30 million term note and a $20 million revolving line of credit. The group recommended that MOPC investigate opportunities to reduce EIS market settlement timelines.

Human Resources Committee, 4/23: The Human Resources Committee asked SPP staff to review Investment Policy Statements associated with the pension, 401(k) and retiree healthcare plans, as well as provide detailed examples of how death and disability benefits in the proposed Supplemental Defined Benefits Plan are intended to function.

Markets and Operations Policy Committee, 4/10-11, 4/23: In their regular meeting, the committee discussed protocol revisions and tariff language to improve the market. There were also Tariff changes on Letters of Credit and limitations for Network Secondary Service. In a special meeting on April 23, the MOPC discussed continued work on PRR 137, which allows external generators to participate in the EIS market. The group approved PRR 137 with proposed changes and PRR 142 with metering changes.

Operations Training Working Group, 4/2, 4/19: The group discussed upcoming training and registration numbers, and it was recommended that the Training Department determine a minimum enrollment for regional training events. The group heard updates on NERC Training Standard and the Spring 2007 System Operations Conference. In addition to the JTA Taskforce, the group moved to require presenters and trainers to develop at least two versions of their assessments, and to retest only once, no later than the end of the last training day.

Regional State Committee, 4/5, 4/23: The RSC and CAWG continued efforts to address the future assessment and funding of Economic Upgrades. Other topics discussed were benefit/cost ratio necessary for Project inclusion, Economic Portfolio development, and Enhanced Regional Planning’s role. The committee granted two waivers for OMPA and AECC in the proposed Turk plant, and they reviewed the Transmission Expansion Tracking tool needed for reliability projects during 2006-2009.

Regional Tariff Working Group, 4/25: The RTWG continued work on Tariff modifications related to the aggregate study process. The group continued discussion of SPP’s response to FERC Order 890 on OATT reform and will conduct a special meeting focused on Tariff changes necessary for compliance with Order 890.

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For complete minutes of a particular group meeting, please visit www.spp.org and select that committee on the Committees and Groups page. Click on the “documents” folder in the left panel to view meeting minutes.

Please contact Laura Norris in the Communications Department with questions or comments about The Org Report.

SPP Calendar