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NERC CIP Cyber Security Standards Discussed at CIPWG

In a special meeting, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group discussed the FERC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) regarding the NERC CIP Cyber Security Standards. The NOPR proposes to approve the eight standards and proposes a number of modifications to be developed through the NERC standards development process. Comments are due to FERC by October 5. The meeting’s purpose was to understand, reform, and discuss interpretations of the standards and the proposals in the NOPR so each member can comment appropriately.

The CIPWG was established to advance the physical and cyber security of the electricity infrastructure within the SPP region. It serves as a forum for discussion on security issues and policies between members. “We’re helping our members work together to keep the lights on through securing the critical infrastructure,” said Kevin Perry, staff secretary for the CIPWG.

SPP Regional Entity to Host Compliance Workshop

The SPP Regional Entity will host the Fall 2007 SPP Regional Entity Compliance Workshop in Tulsa, OK, on October 10-11. Participants will be brought up-to-date on this year’s Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, and learn about functional registration, joint registration organizations, and the process by which Regional Standards are created. Attendees will also get a sneak peek at the 2008 Compliance program, and a break-out session will be offered for new users of the Compliance Database Management System (CDMS). Click here to register.

NERC/NAESB Update

SPP completed changes to the Regional Entity Delegation Agreement as ordered by FERC in the April 2007 Order that established the SPP Regional Entity. The changes will be presented for discussion and approval to the SPP Board of Directors at the October 1st meeting in Dallas.

The Month In Review

Cost Allocations Working Group, 8/29: The group discussed the 2007 STEP Screening results and the need for a minimum ratio of benefit to cost for screening analysis, as well as the “balanced portfolio” concept. Presentations were made regarding the MISO Cost Allocation FERC order and the Empire District waiver.

Business Practices Working Group, 8/20: The BPWG met to discuss the results of Available Flowgate Capability (AFC) calculations process changes that were made previously. The group discussed BP 2.12 for renewal rights, established new Business Practice for redispatch provisions, and investigated ways to improve BP 2.7.

Market Working Group, 8/7-8, 10: The MWG heard presentations on co-optimization and regional financial transmission rights to educate members on future markets items. Following the presentations, the group discussed SPP market issues and decision tree considerations. PRRs 153 and 163 were approved; PRR 162 was rejected.

Operations Training Working Group, 8/6: The OTWG discussed the upcoming System Operations Conference, which will be held September 17-20 at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock. The group also heard updates regarding the regional training survey and NERC Training Standards.
Regional State Committee, 8/24: In a special meeting, the RSC heard reports on the continued development of the Economic Upgrade Portfolio, including the integration of off-ramp facilities and Aggregate Improvements Task Force progress. Also discussed was the relationship between the economic upgrades and EHV Study. The CAWG will develop key assumptions for the economic models to be consistent with the EHV project.

Regional Tariff Working Group, 8/28, 30: Tariff modifications were discussed during the RTWG meetings. Order 890 Tariff modifications were approved. The group also approved the separation of the Base Plan Guidelines and Cost Allocation Tariff modifications, which will help improve the clarity of the Tariff.

Transmission Working Group, 8/8-9: The TWG heard presentations from SPP staff regarding the reliability and economic portions of the STEP analysis, Short Term Mitigation Review, and Letters of Authorization Strawman proposal. The Criteria 3 Task Force discussed voltage standards, which will be taken back to MOPC for discussion.

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 Org Groups page. Meeting minutes are located in the left column.

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

SPP Calendar
The Org Report Back Issues