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**Fall Systems Operating Conference Successful**

The SPP Training Department held its fall Systems Operating Conference September 17-20 at Little Rock's Peabody Hotel. The fall conference provided system operators an opportunity to receive training with their peers from other SPP member companies. "The conference was a chance for operations personnel from the SPP region to attend a variety of training sessions and to talk with operators from other companies," said Senior Regional Training Specialist Carl Stelly. "These conferences accomplish training objectives and provide an opportunity to network and meet other operators with whom they interact daily by phone."

Conference material covered topics such as NERC standards, interconnection reliability operating limits, system operating limits, system protection, continuing education hour rules and databases, reliability coordination operations demonstration, decision-making simulation, restoration, islanded operations, evacuation, and business continuity. Attendees received 23.5 NERC continuing education hours for participating in the conference. The group also toured the new SPP Operations Center in Maumelle.

**NERC/NAESB Update**

On October 1, the SPP Board of Directors and Members Committee approved changes to the SPP Bylaws and Regional Standards Development Procedure, safeguarding the authority and autonomy of the Regional Entity (RE) Trustees. The RE Trustees are entrusted to ensure the functions of the Regional Entity, including standards compliance and regional standards development, are independent from the SPP Regional Transmission Organization.

On October 16, NERC submitted its compliance filing to FERC for approval. This filing contains changes to NERC Bylaws and Rules of Procedure in response to FERC’s directives in an order conditionally approving NERC as the Electric Reliability Organization. NERC also filed the Regional Entity Delegation Agreements for approval.

The North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) adopted several revised Business Practices for the Wholesale Electric Quadrant for Open Access Same Time Information Systems (OASIS), Resales of Transmission Service under the Open Access Transmission Tariffs, and Transmission Loading Relief Procedures. These changes will be filed at FERC for approval and included in an updated set of NAESB Standards. NAESB Business Practices approved by FERC become enforceable mandatory standards for jurisdictional entities. Entities that have FERC-jurisdictional tariffs must be in compliance with FERC-approved NAESB practices.

**The Month In Review**

**Corporate Governance Committee, 9/13:** The Corporate Governance Committee is assuming responsibility for the annual organizational effectiveness effort. Nick Brown, chair of the committee, will host the Chairs/Secretaries workshop in November. In other business, the committee approved the final Bylaws revisions for recommendation to the Board of Directors/Members Committee for the Regional Entity compliance filing on October 16. The committee considered a recommendation from Empire District for Bylaws changes regarding the nomination process for Directors and Trustees. Following discussion, staff was directed to consider changes to the ballot process that may address Empire’s concern and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

**Finance Committee, 9/19:** In their quarterly meeting, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to continue issuing initial settlement statements for EIS market transactions seven days after the operating day. The group encouraged meter agents to improve their equipment and processes to allow initial settlement statements to be issued sooner than seven days after the operating day.
Human Resources Committee, 9/13: The Human Resources Committee approved the recommendation to establish a pool equal to 2.2% of 2007 salaries to fund the 2008 merit compensation adjustments for SPP staff.

Market and Operations Policy Committee, 9/15: In a special meeting, the MOPC reviewed the recommendation for FERC 890 Order Tariff changes requirements. The group will develop an educational plan, including workshops, seminars, and training, for SPP members on Order 890 and other tariff changes. They also approved recommendations from the Regional Tariff Working Group to make changes to the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff to meet the requirements of Order 890.

Market Working Group, 9/4-5, 9/24: Protocol Revision Requests (PRR) approved during the meetings were 141 (registration changes), 146 (start up and start down planned megawatts), 147 (dispatch instruction ramping limits), 164 (request Curtailment Adjustment Tool flowgate), 169 (Uninstructed Resource Deviation operating tolerance), and 170 (resettlement timeline). The group also discussed future market design, market updates, and disaster recovery plan updates.

Operating Reliability Working Group, 9/6: The ORWG discussed and approved criteria additions related to System Operating Limits (SOL), Interconnection Reliability Operating Limit (IROL), Available Transfer Capabilities (ATC) determination methodologies, and the NERC Inadvertent Reporting Tool. The group also discussed reserve sharing events and Disturbance Control Standard (DCS) performance. PRRs 141, 146, 147, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 160, 161, 163 were approved. The group discussed reliability-related events during the summer peak, including transmission loading relief and energy emergency alert.

Operations Training Working Group, 9/20: In addition to the Fall System Operations Conference debriefing, the OTWG discussed the results of the regional training survey, the fall and 2008 continuing education hours (CEH) courses, and vacancies on the OTWG.

System Protection and Control Working Group, 9/5-6: The group reviewed the SPP misoperations database and heard updates from the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ESISAC) and Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group (CIPWG). SPP Criteria 7.4.7 revisions were approved, as well as the Regional Standard Request Form for the SPP Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) regional standard.

Regional Tariff Working Group, 9/27: The RTWG reviewed business practices and task force activities, and approved the Tariff language changes for PRR 169. The group heard presentations on Entergy/SPP ICT rate reciprocity, the aggregate study improvement task force, and the new Tariff Attachment O.

Other Meetings

Cost Allocation Working Group, 9/26
Transmission Working Group, 9/16, 9/25

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
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