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SPP Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee

On March 17, the Consolidated Balancing Authority (CBA) Steering Committee heard status updates from both the CBA Technical Task Force and the Policy Task Force. The group discussed the conceptual design of the Consolidated Balancing Authority, including prioritization of task force project plans and coordination of decisions between the two groups. The group also prepared a commitment update for the Market and Operations Policy Committee and the Board of Directors.

Balancing Authority consolidation, in advance of future market phases, would facilitate implementation of those markets. This intermediate step can be taken in conjunction with a commitment for future implementation of Ancillary Services, Day Ahead Unit Commitment, and Day Ahead Energy markets. Members will review the cost benefit analysis when complete, and then decide whether or not to move forward with the Balancing Authority consolidation.

NERC/NAESB Update

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued an order accepting all eight Regional Entity (RE) Delegation Agreements. Many REs had conditional agreements requiring additional modifications. SPP’s agreement was approved upon the completion of an ongoing FERC audit.

A response to FERC Order No. 698 will be voted on by the North American Energy Standards Board Wholesale Gas Quadrant. If passed, it will enable gas-fired electric generators to purchase gas equivalent to firm deliveries after the close of the traditional gas trading day. This reflects FERC’s directive to the gas industry to prevent the gas supply problems that occurred a few years ago in the Northeast.

The Wholesale Electric Quadrant of NAESB is holding meetings to develop Demand Side Management standards. The ISO/RTO Council is developing business practices for demand response programs in the wholesale power markets. These include measurement and verification of demand response resources, and standards to enable smaller resources to participate at the bulk power system level.

The Month In Review

Business Practice Working Group, 3/20: Business Practice 1.11 was passed and clarifies language regarding selling counterflow across the Blackwater, Eddy County, and Lamar DC ties. The group also approved Business Practice 2.11 revisions to provide the criteria for valid network service requests from non-designated resources.

Corporate Governance, 3/3: The committee met to interview Board of Directors candidates to recommend a nominee to the Membership at a special meeting of members to be held in April. The committee selected a candidate, and the appropriate notice has gone out to the Membership. Additionally, the committee addressed transmission-using member vacancies on the Strategic Planning and Human Resources committees. Mike Wise (Golden Spread) and Darrell Dorsey (BPU) were elected to serve.

Cost Allocation Working Group, 3/26: In their monthly meeting, the CAWG discussed draft Tariff language and issues associated with cost allocation for economic upgrades. They also discussed a policy change related to Base Plan funding for available wind resources.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group, 3/18: In their quarterly meeting, the CIPWG heard a presentation by the Department of Homeland Security on the impact of a pandemic on critical infrastructure. They also heard updates from the NERC CIP Committee and discussed FERC Order 706, which adopted CIP standards. The group discussed how to achieve the FERC expectation of multiple controls at physical and electronic access points.
**Market Working Group, 3/3, 3/18-19:** PRR 148 was approved, along with impact analysis for PRRs 068, 097, 101, 153, 155, 156, 166, 169, and 172. All were sent to the Market and Operations Policy Committee. The group also amended the MWG Charter, discussed portfolio schedule handling, and reviewed outstanding regulatory compliance issues.

**Model Development Working Group, 3/18:** In a special meeting, previously tabled items were discussed, including approval of the transient stability models for the 2009 model series. The second quarter MDWG models will be published out of MOD (Models on Demand). This “go live” vote is to declare MOD as the official model building tool for MDWG models, but has been tabled until April to allow time to obtain user satisfaction/comments from all MDWG model building contacts.

**System Protection and Control Working Group, 3/6-7:** The SPCWG replaced the Special Protection Scheme at Finney with a Transmission Operating Guideline. The group also approved extending the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Under Frequency Load Shed exemption until the SPP regional standard has been adopted by FERC.

**Operating Reliability Working Group, 3/17, 3/26:** The ORWG passed the Emergency Communications Task Force report, and accepted a proposal to allow the SPP reliability coordinator to adjust reserve requirements if reserves are inadequate for a specific operating day. PRRs 166, 097, 148, 165, 169, 170, 173, 174, and 175 were approved, along with the SPP BlackStart Plan.

**Operations Training Working Group, 3/3, 3/24:** At a special meeting, the OTWG submitted comments from OTWG members regarding NERC Standard PER-005-1. These comments are posted on SPP.org.

**Transmission Working Group, 3/4:** The TWG reviewed and passed Criteria 3, and recommended that implementation take place no later than March 2013. They also reviewed a Notification to Construct white paper.

**Other Meetings**

**Regional Tariff Working Group, 3/25-26**

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 Haywood in the Communications Department with questions or comments about The Org Report.