Market Operations Users Conference Held

On June 10-12, SPP hosted the first annual SPP Market Operations Users Conference in Little Rock. Participants learned about Area Control Error (ACE) impact, system maintenance, real-time market information exchanges, and SPP’s market monitoring role. Break-out sessions covered congestion management, IT systems change management, registration changes, and modeling coordination.

“In keeping with our value proposition of being ‘relationship-based’, we are excited to provide opportunities to facilitate market participants’ getting together face-to-face. It’s our hope that this conference helped forge relationships among market participants, as well as between market participants and SPP staff,” said Sam Ellis, Manager of Market Operations and event organizer. “We’re very pleased that our market participants found the opportunity to be worthwhile, and all indications are that we’ll have an even bigger turn-out next year.”

NERC Evaluates SPP’s Readiness to Maintain Reliability

This month the Oversight Committee reviewed the North American Electric Reliability Corporation’s (NERC) report on the recent SPP Readiness Audit. In February NERC staff reviewed documents, toured the control room, and conducted interviews with employees to evaluate SPP’s readiness to maintain the reliable operation of the bulk power system. The NERC team praised SPP for its well-organized control room layout, high level of support for reliability coordination, and good coordination between the operation analysis group and transmission planning group. The team was pleased with the extensive NERC certification of personnel beyond the reliability coordinator desk, and praised the SPP training department by requesting that SPP restoration drills be submitted as an Example of Excellence. The NERC report offered nine positive observations and nine recommendations for the enhancement of SPP’s reliability.

NERC/NAESB Update

NERC revised its 2009 Business Plan and Budget draft, and will file it at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in August. Increased costs in the compliance and standards development area will add resources to fulfill NERC’s responsibilities as the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO). The recent confirmed violations approved by FERC were only an initial set. NERC and the Regional Entities (REs) are investigating and will file more violations at FERC in the near future. SPP has submitted its 2009 RE Business Plan and Budget to NERC, which will then be filed for FERC approval.

The North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) filed a proposed set of business practices for “E-Tariff” at FERC. When approved, all tariffs, tariff revisions, and rate change applications for the public utility, natural gas pipeline, and oil pipeline industries must be filed electronically. These standards will enable the public to view and research tariffs in electronic format.

The Month In Review

Change Working Group, 6/3-4: In their quarterly meeting, the CWG discussed PRR 113, external generators, integrated test environment, and impacts of PRR 181. The group also heard liaison reports from other working groups.

Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee, 6/23: The committee heard updates from the Policy Task Force, and the NERC certification package and process was presented. The group finalized discussion on several reliability requirement topics including: balancing, scheduled interchange, inadvertent interchange, cyber security, communications, protection scheme, and personnel.

**Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group, 6/17:** Updates were heard from the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee and the Standards Authorization Request drafting team. The group discussed critical cyber asset identification guidelines, cyber security audit/attack detection tool kits, and the House Subcommittee hearing on electric grid security.

**Market Working Group, 6/17-18:** PRRs 176, 184, and 185 were all approved. The MWG heard updates from the Cost Benefit Task Force/Ventyx, and discussed the 2009 PRR budget.

**Operations Training Working Group, 6/2:** The OTWG heard updates from the Joint Inter-regional Training Forum and discussed the System Operations Conference, which had 51 participants who were awarded 1200 continuing education hours.

**Oversight Committee, 6/25:** The committee heard quarterly activity reports from Compliance, Market Monitoring, and the External Market Advisor, as well as a review of SPP’s recent Readiness Evaluation by NERC and an issuance of first NERC compliance enforcement actions.

**Regional State Committee, 6/16:** The RSC called a special meeting to approve a policy change for the Base Plan funding of wind resources, and all proposed changes were unanimously approved. The RSC received reports on the Concepts Paper on the Balanced Portfolio, tariff language conversion, and member development activities underway by SPP staff.

**Regional Tariff Working Group, 6/5, 11, 25-26:** At their monthly meeting, the RTWG discussed balanced portfolio tariff language, PRR 176 and 185, aggregate study tariff language modifications, and approved transmission upgrades deferred or displaced by economic upgrades.

**Transmission Working Group, 6/11, 18:** This special meeting was called to discuss the KCC Blackberry-Chouteau-Grand River Dam Authority 1 Economic study, short term mitigation review, and SPP sensitivity analysis for the Woodward-Northwest project.

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For complete minutes of a particular group meeting, please visit [www.spp.org](http://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.