Generation Queue Task Force

The Generation Queue Task Force is analyzing ways SPP can speed up the interconnection queue process for the explosion of new interconnection requests, especially from wind power developers. SPP is considering requiring larger financial commitments and a system of milestones to gauge an applicant's progress. If a generator is making adequate progress with milestones, it might qualify for a fast-track approach.

Les Dillahunty, SPP's vice president of regulatory policy, said he hopes to see a plan worked out by the end of the year, after which it would be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The levels of financial commitment are a particularly tough issue, Dillahunty said, noting that power suppliers of different sizes have different financial capabilities.

The Generation Queue Task Force evaluates SPP and FERC Order 2003 policies and procedures for generation interconnection of all requested generator types, identifies current issues and shortcomings of the process, and develops alternative processes and recommendations by identifying changes to tariff and business practices.

NERC/NAESB Update

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is increasing its capability for responding to security threats to the bulk power system. President and CEO Rick Sergel sent a letter to the NERC Board and stakeholders proposing seven recommended actions. These recommendations include the establishment of a Chief Security Officer who will oversee a Critical Infrastructure Program, an expedited standards-setting process to quickly create requirements for responding to new threats, and more coordination with U.S. and Canadian government agencies that have authority over infrastructure security matters.

FERC approved the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) “Version 1” business practices for the wholesale electric quadrant. This is the first comprehensive set of updates to these standards since the initial filing of “Version 0” standards in 2003, when NERC and NAESB assigned the OASIS Business Practices and several former NERC standards to NAESB. These Version 1 business practices contain updates to many of the open access transmission standards and will become mandatory and enforceable for all FERC-jurisdictional transmission providers.

The Month In Review

**Board of Directors/Members Committee, 7/29:** The Board of Directors/Members Committee had a very full agenda, primarily addressing items from the MOPC. Most significantly, the Board approved the filing of tariff language to implement the Regional State Committee's policy direction for economic transmission upgrades. This is an important step forward in encouraging the building of transmission in the SPP region. Other items include the passage of a Bylaws change necessary for the Delegation Agreement compliance filing, and the approval of a leasing arrangement for an airplane.

**Business Practices Working Group, 7/23:** Changes were accepted to Business Practice 1.1 to remove the requirement of full-year increments for yearly service, as well as all references to point-to-point service. Business Practice 2.10 was revised to provide conditional firm service to allow resources outside the SPP network to be used as a Designed Network Resource.

**Change Working Group, 7/10:** In a special meeting the group discussed the external generator project timeline and the membership's readiness to test by the 12-1-08 deadline.
Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee, 7/14: At their July 14 meeting the committee heard a report from the Technical Task Force. The group reviewed and reached consensus on the NERC requirements matrix and the parties responsible for each requirement under the consolidated Balancing Authority.


Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group, 7/28: In a special meeting, the CIPWG discussed the Progress Energy request for the interpretation of NERC standard CIP-006-1 requirement R1.

Finance Committee, 7/10: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to engage BKD and PriceWaterhouseCoopers for financial and SAS70 audits respectively, and approved required expenditures to meet Order 890 and 692 requirements under the Entergy Independent Coordinator of Transmission contract.

Market and Operations Policy Committee 7/15-16: The committee approved waivers for Kansas Electric Power Company, Kansas Power Pool, and North Texas Electric Cooperative. Revisions to Business Practice 1.12, as well as PRRs 157, 173, 174, 175, 178, 179, 180, 181, and 185 were approved. Other action items discussed were the Cost Benefit Task Force and Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee activities, Criteria 6 and 11 changes from the ORWG, and RTWG Schedule 13 regarding economic portfolio tariff language.

Operating Reliability Working Group, 7/9: The ORWG approved Criteria 11 and 6.3 changes and discussed VAR standards and future Criteria changes.

Operations Training Working Group, 7/16-17: In its July face-to-face meeting, the OTWG selected dates and locations for three 2009 system operations conferences. The group agreed to post comments regarding the NERC PER-005-1 draft Standard, discussed a potential inter-regional operations conference, and reviewed interest in emergency communications alternatives.

Regional Entity Trustees, 7/21: The trustees accepted Criteria 11 with two minor changes, and it will be distributed to appropriate Registered Entities. An evaluation survey was sent to Registered Entities to assess the SPP RE, and trustees are preparing a self-assessment survey.

Regional State Committee, 7/28: The RSC reviewed Cost Benefit Task Force input assumptions for future SPP markets and approved Base Plan Funding waivers. The committee approved tariff language to incorporate the balanced portfolio for economic upgrades, which was the culmination of 16 months of effort by the RSC/CAWG stakeholder groups. This plan will allow region-wide cost recovery for a portfolio of economic transmission upgrades that provide regional benefits.

Regional Tariff Working Group, 6/5, 11, 25-26: In their monthly meeting, tariff language modifications pertaining to Aggregate Study were passed, and PRR 184 was unanimously approved. The group also discussed implementation of Order 890-Rollover provisions, NERC penalty allocations, and Business Practices 1.1, 2.10, 2.15.

Other Meetings

Other Meetings

Market Working Group, 7/22-23

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For complete minutes of a particular group meeting, select the above links or 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.

SPP Calendar

The Org Report Back Issues