Critical Infrastructure Protection “How-To” Workshop Held

The SPP Regional Entity and the SPP Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group sponsored the second “CIP How To” workshop on August 13-14 in Dallas, and approximately 70 participants attended. The implementation plan for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)-approved North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards dealing with Critical Infrastructure Protection reached an enforceable stage for many SPP registered entities on July 1, 2008. More registered entities will reach an enforceable stage at the next major milestones of December 31, 2008 and July 1, 2009.

The workshop concentrated on the fundamentals of critical infrastructure identification, protection, and compliance to NERC standards. The speakers included experts from NERC, SPP Regional Entity compliance staff, SPP Regional Transmission Organization staff, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Also, a number of the participants shared their own experiences and practices. The workshop presentations are available on the Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group section of SPP.org in the CIPWG 2008 folder.

Fall STEP Reliability Summit

The fall SPP Transmission Expansion Plan (STEP) Reliability Summit was held August 13 in Little Rock and allowed stakeholders to share their needs and concerns in an open environment. “One part of the STEP is reliability,” said Keith Tynes, Manager of Engineering Planning, “and this summit allowed us to work on reliability mitigation plans for SPP.” Tynes said reliability must be redefined for SPP. “Existing NERC planning standards and SPP Criteria are based on maintaining system integrity to avoid cascading outages. That level of reliability may not be acceptable to our stakeholders who expect more from SPP transmission expansion plans. Reliability need not necessarily be defined too narrowly to preclude optimal regional transmission expansion,” he said.

Other topics discussed were economic build-out for almost every future scenario in SPP, including significant wind development to serve member needs and potentially large exports to neighboring regions. In the spring, the same group will gather to discuss issues on a broader level. Special case studies were discussed during this meeting to give stakeholders an idea of what the grid can be expected to look like in the future. “STEP lives and breathes and is very dynamic. It’s always changing,” said Tynes.

NERC/NAESB Update

NERC submitted the 2009 business plan and budget for FERC approval. Included in the filing are the 2009 business plan and budgets for the SPP Regional Entity and the other seven Regional Entities. When approved by FERC, NERC will be authorized to collect funding for its budget and the Regional Entity budgets from the respective load serving entities on a net-energy-for-load basis.

On August 29, the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) submitted a report to FERC regarding NAESB’s activities from October 2007 to August 2008 regarding the adoption of Version 002 of the NAESB Wholesale Electric Quadrant (WEQ) standards. These standards include modifications of existing or new standards to support FERC Order No. 890, 890-A, and 890-B, including standards to support conditional firm service. A maintenance item related to the manual time error corrections standards (WEQ-006) and an interpretation of the gas/electric coordination standards (WEQ-011) were included in the submission.
The Month In Review

**Business Practices Working Group, 8/20:** The group approved revised definitions and timing requirements of proposed on-peak and off-peak service types to the Regional Tariff Working Group and requested a tariff change to allow for these new service types.

**Change Working Group, 8/6-7:** In their quarterly meeting, the group heard updates on the settlement system replacement, Balancing Authority impacts from external generators, and the market registration process.

**Cost Allocation Working Group, 8/27:** Discussions were heard regarding the balanced portfolio for economic transmission upgrades, economics of the EHV Overlay Study, and generation interconnections for wind requests.

**Market Working Group, 8/19-20, 8/22:** The MWG reviewed the updated monthly metric report and discussed results from the Cost Benefit Task Force benchmark. PRR 176 concerning demand response in the EIS market was unanimously approved with added tariff language.

**Operating Reliability Working Group, 8/27-28:** Kyle McMenamin of Xcel Energy, Don Hargrove of OG&E, and Paul Lampe of the City of Independence are the newest members of the ORWG. In their regular meeting, the group reformed the Operating Reserve Task Force and unanimously approved removing Criteria Appendix 5, since it is no longer necessary under revised criteria 11.

**Operations Training Working Group, 8/4:** During the August OTWG teleconference, the group reviewed the upcoming fall training calendar, received updates on the fall System Operations Conference, and discussed the 2009 System Operations Conferences. The OTWG charter was revised to reflect changes made in the organization’s reporting procedures as directed by the Market and Operations Policy Committee.

**System Protection and Control Working Group, 8/5:** This special meeting was held to submit comments to NERC’s Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) regional reliability standard characteristic questions. The UFLS Standard Drafting Team is a branch of the System Protection and Control Working Group and was created to draft the SPP UFLS regional reliability standard.

**Transmission Working Group, 8/6-7, 8/19:** In their quarterly meeting, the TWG approved the Economic Modeling and Methods Task Force and the 2008 EHV Overlay Study scope. They also approved tabling of the transmission operating directive planning standards and heard an update from the Interconnection Review Process Task Force.

Other Meetings

**Regional Tariff Working Group, 8/19, 8/28**

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For complete minutes of a particular group meeting, please visit [SPP.org](http://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](http://SPP.org)  [The Org Report Back Issues](http://SPP.org)