Three Nebraska Utilities Seek to Join SPP

Three public power utilities in Nebraska have signed membership agreements with SPP, which will bring our member count to 53 and increase the number of states in which we have members from eight to nine. Nebraska Public Power District, Lincoln Electric System, and Omaha Public Power District began analyzing options for membership in a regional transmission organization in 2007. The organizations are scheduled to integrate their operations into SPP by April 1, 2009.

According to Chief Operating Officer Carl Monroe, “The addition of the Nebraska organizations will create more diversity in our membership, and the new members will bring fresh ideas to SPP. Adding the Nebraska entities will also reduce expenses for our other members.” SPP and the three utilities are working on transition activities such as installing IT infrastructure and training staff, so they can fully participate in SPP services. Read the full news release and the FERC filing.

NERC Update

Cyber security and critical infrastructure protection needs are driving new legislation to provide the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) with special authority to invoke directives on the electric industry to protect the electric infrastructure from imminent security threats. A special summit held in Washington D.C. confirmed a commitment by legislators, the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security, and electric industry leaders to work together to address such threats. NERC has taken steps under its existing authority as the Electric Reliability Organization to communicate identified threats to all registered entities and has formed a group headed by the new Chief Security Officer.

The Month In Review

Business Practices Working Group, 9/18: Changes were made to business practice 2.13 regarding the replacement of “redirect” with “undesignated.” The revised language more closely aligns with language found in FERC Order 890. The group also discussed business practices on notices to construct and external generators.

Change Working Group, 9/16: This special meeting was held to review the implementation cutover plan for PRR 113 system changes.

Corporate Governance Committee, 9/11: The committee approved nominees to be recommended for election by the Membership at its annual meeting in October.

Cost Allocation Working Group, 9/24: Discussions were heard regarding the EHV Overlay economics concepts paper, waivers for the city of Coffeyville, Kansas and Westar, and generation interconnection crediting.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group, 9/30: In their quarterly meeting, the CIPWG heard updates from the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection committee, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Critical Infrastructure Protection standards revision. The group also held CIP Standards compliance and general security issues roundtable discussions.

Finance Committee, 9/19: In their quarterly meeting, the group voted unanimously to set the 2009 administrative fee and assessment rate at 17 cents/MWh and to approve revisions to the quarantine provisions of the SPP Credit Policy.

Market and Operations Policy Committee, 9/3: In this special meeting, the MOPC approved changes to the SPP Tariff to facilitate the Nebraska entities joining SPP.

Market Working Group, 9/16-17: The MWG approved PRR 186 and the external generation tariff language changes. The group also heard an update from the Cost Benefit Task Force and reviewed the monthly metrics report.
**Oversight Committee, 9/25:** The group heard quarterly activity reports from Compliance, Market Monitoring, and the External Market Advisor.

**Regional Tariff Working Group, 9/2, 9/18, 9/25-26:** The RTWG discussed the Generation Queue Task Force strawman, base plan funding tariff changes accommodating the Nebraska entities, and aggregate study improvements related to third party impact processes and coordination.

**System Protection and Control Working Group, 9/22-23:** The SPCWG reviewed the SPP misoperations report, ongoing NERC standard updates, and SPP Criteria 3.5. The group also took questions from the Nebraska entities regarding SPP Criteria 7, and developed a first draft of the SPP Underfrequency Load Shedding standard.

**Transmission Working Group, 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/23, 9/30:** During September, the TWG met to address outstanding issues that would go to the Market and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) in October, including the FERC Order 890 compliance filing, Notification to Construct white paper, and the MOPC directive on Clay Center-Greenleave.

**Other Meetings**

**Operations Training Working Group, 9/8:**

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](mailto:Laura.Haywood@SPP.org) in the Communications Department with questions or comments about The Org Report.

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