Fall Systems Operators Conference Held

The SPP Training Department held its fall Systems Operations Conference October 6-9 in Little Rock. The conference covered such topics as NERC standards, critical decision making exercises, line relaying, reliability coordination operations, voltage control, system stability, and managing risk in a time critical environment. “The conference was a chance for operations personnel from the SPP region to attend a variety of training sessions and interact with operators from other companies,” said Regional Emergency Operations Trainer Carl Stelly.

At the October OTWG meeting, the group discussed the conference and reviewed evaluations on the speakers and topics. They also received updates on the 2009 regional training calendar and decided on the 2009 regional net conference topic list, which will include TLR, the reserve sharing system, SPP Criteria, and more.

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

In October, the SPC heard reports from the Markets and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) and previewed strategic topics to be addressed at the October Board meeting. One topic discussed was the ability of retail aggregators and certain retail customers to become SPP market participants by bidding their loads as demand response, which is not prohibited according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The SPC also discussed SPP’s future facilities needs. Based on a consultant’s report, SPP is proposing to relocate its administrative offices and primary operations center, with the Maumelle facility becoming the backup site. A building proposal will be presented to the Finance Committee in December and to the Board of Directors in January.

A final report of the Transmission Ownership/Construction Task Force was made addressing the FERC Right of First Refusal (ROFR) issue requiring SPP to make a compliance filing. The policy recommendation was sent to the Regional Tariff Working Group for the development of tariff language. Revisions to the strategic plan will be sent to the SPC and broader stakeholder groups with the expectation of approving the revised strategic plan in January.

NERC/NAESB Update

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is asking Regional Entities to focus on getting all confirmed open violations through the compliance process. NERC made an initial FERC filing of confirmed reliability standards violations in early 2008, and FERC has conditionally approved those violations. The NERC Board Compliance Committee placed a high priority on Regional Entities expediting the submission of outstanding confirmed violations for their approval and subsequent FERC approval.

The North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) is moving closer to approving its first set of demand response business practices for the wholesale electric quadrant. The ISO-RTO Council has been active with NAESB in developing measurement and verification standards which will provide consistency and transparency for demand response products across markets. FERC has been a strong advocate for the industry, proposing demand response solutions for the bulk power system as a means to reduce future generation capacity needs. These NAESB business practices will aid in developing demand response products.

The Month In Review

Board of Directors/Members Committee, 10/28: At its quarterly meeting, the Board of Directors/Members Committee approved the 2009 budget and a reduction of the administrative fee to 17 cents effective January 1, 2009. Tariff changes were approved for filing to include the Nebraska entities in base plan funding.
Business Practices Working Group, 10/29: A motion was passed to approve revisions of business practice 1.11 dealing with DC ties to the western interconnection, which will then be reviewed by the Regional Transmission Working Group and the Operating Reliability Working Group. The group also discussed the Notice to Construct white paper, external generators, and business practice 2.12.

Change Working Group, 10/23: The group discussed the September market suspension, OASIS replacement, and PRR 113. A motion was passed to have the CWG give their thoughts on future markets to MOPC.

Consolidated Balancing Authority, 10/24: At their October meeting, the steering committee reviewed MOPC’s direction for the steering committee and an update on the next market phases. The group began discussion of a possible redesign of the Consolidated Balancing Authority project.

Cost Allocation Working Group, 10/22: In their monthly teleconference, the CAWG discussed the economics for the EHV Overlay, carbon sensitivity to the Balanced Portfolio, and clarification of the CAWG waiver recommendation.

Human Resources Committee, 10/27: The HR Committee reviewed 2009 SPP benefits and training/development programs. The group discussed the value of assets held in SPP’s retirement plans, and how negative returns received so far this year will impact future funding. The group also discussed staffing for 2009 and approved the HRC 2008 self-evaluation assessment.

Market and Operations Policy Committee, 10/14-15: Major items passed on a number of tariff changes to the Board including how the Nebraska entities would enter Base Plan Funding for reliability and delivery transmission expansion projects. The BPWG Revisions to business practice 1.10 and 2.13 were passed, as well as the ORWG Criteria 5. The MOPC approved the City of Coffeyville and Westar waivers for Base Plan Funding.

Membership, 10/28: The Membership held its annual meeting, and the agenda included the re-election of Josh Martin and Larry Altenbaumer to the Board of Directors; Mel Perkins, Steve Parr, Cindy Holman, and Rick Woffinger to the Members Committee; and Gerry Burrows as Regional Entity Trustee. Each nominee was unanimously approved.

Regional Entity Trustees, 10/27: At their quarterly meeting, the RE self-assessment survey results were discussed, and the Trustees requested clarification on the reported budget. As of October 16, there are 60 outstanding violations pending in the RE. SPP employee Alan Wahlstrom has been hired as a lead engineer in the RE, and a second technical staff position has been approved.

Regional State Committee, 10/27: The October meeting was a combination of the Annual Meeting and the normal quarterly business meeting. Commissioner David King of New Mexico was re-elected as the 2009 RSC President, Commissioner Mike Moffett of Kansas as Vice President, and Chairman Jeff Davis of Missouri as Secretary/Treasurer. The 2007 RSC Annual Audit was approved, as well as the adoption of the 2009 and 2010 RSC budgets. Reports were presented on the Electric Transmission America (ETA), OG&E Energy, and Westar Two-Loop 765 kV Cost/Benefit Study; the Joint Coordinated System Plan (JCSP); the Future Markets Cost/Benefit Study status; and the SPP Strategic Plan. The RSC heard a report from the CAWG on the Proposed Economic Evaluation for the Extra High Voltage (EHV) Overlay, agreeing to continue the proposed direction. The RSC agreed to support two waivers, one from the City of Coffeyville, Kansas, and another from Westar.

Regional Tariff Working Group, 10/17, 10/23: The RTWG reviewed tariff language modifications for integration of the Nebraska entities, PRR 188, and attachment J on wind cost allocation. The group also heard from the Delivery Point Addition Task Force, and received updates on the Balanced Portfolio compliance order and Order 719.

Transmission Working Group, 10/7, 10/21: The TWG accepted the staff recommendation of the Clay Center-Greenleaf alternatives, and the Model Development Working Group charter was approved. The group also discussed the Notification To Construct white paper.

Other Meetings

Market Working Group, 10/21-22

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For complete minutes of a particular group meeting, please visit 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.

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