Organizational Group Chairs and Secretaries Workshop

On November 20 and 21, SPP’s organizational group chairs and secretaries met to discuss ways to improve the effectiveness of our committees and working groups. Participants reviewed results of the 2008 organizational group self-assessments and survey. Discussions focused on meeting management, organizational group annual plans, and PRR/action item tracking. The meeting also included a short training on facilitation skills.

Stacy Duckett, SPP General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, led a brainstorming session to identify specific ideas for improving SPP’s organizational groups. Participants discussed 57 ideas, which were sorted into five categories: Administration, Communications, Member Engagement, Technology, and Training. The ideas were then assigned either to SPP staff, chairs/secretaries, or specific groups for follow-up. Participants also reviewed the status of improvement ideas from last year’s chairs and secretaries meeting.

FERC Approves Revisions to Facilitate Nebraska Membership

FERC accepted SPP’s proposed revisions and amendments to its Bylaws, Tariff, and Membership Agreement to facilitate the membership in SPP of Nebraska Public Power District, Omaha Public Power District, and Lincoln Electric System. Read the filing.

In a statement issued December 2, FERC Commissioner Philip Moeller stated, “I believe that this expansion will bring significant benefits to consumers in both the state of Nebraska and in the other eight states that already have utilities participating in the SPP. Consumers will benefit by both spreading the fixed costs of the RTO across a larger footprint, and by the improved efficiency and coordination available to Nebraska and all SPP members in the SPP market. This expansion is designed to provide Nebraska utilities with improved reliability, operational flexibility, and enhanced coordination — all at a time when the nation, and the SPP in particular, is addressing transmission expansion and more efficient operation of the electric network.”

A number of SPP organizational groups have been participating in the Nebraska integration project, including the Board of Directors, Change Working Group, Markets and Operations Policy Committee, Transmission Working Group, Operating Reliability Working Group, Model Development Working Group, and Regional Tariff Working Group.

NERC/NAESB Update

Registered load serving entities are responsible for funding the 2009 North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and eight Regional Entity (RE) budgets, including the SPP RE budget. The 2009 first quarter payments are due December 31, 2008. NERC invoices entities directly, allocating the costs to the load serving entities on a net energy for load basis. Read the FERC filing with a cost allocation table. Certain load serving entities may be exempt from the NERC compliance program due to an exclusion granted by FERC for entities serving loads connected to the bulk power system totaling less than 25 MW. However, FERC did not grant such an exemption for these entities to fund the reliability organizations.

The North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) is moving closer to approving a set of business practices that will standardize demand response measurement and verification. The NAESB Executive Committee will discuss this at its next meeting in February 2009. The ISO/RTO Council was a key player in the proposal, supporting the approval of these business practices that will facilitate the further development of demand response products for the bulk power system.

The Month In Review

Consolidated Balancing Authority, 11/5: At the November meeting, the steering committee discussed the New Market Project Plan and how it will coordinate with changes to the Consolidated Balancing Authority plans.
The committee also discussed three options for optimizing the Consolidated Balancing Authority, including implementing an Ace Diversity Interchange program.

Operating Reliability Working Group, 11/6: The ORWG passed Business Practice 1.11 and PRRs 181, 189, 190, and 191. The group also discussed integrating the Nebraska entities, the updated reliability plan for incorporating Missouri Public Service into the Reliability Coordinator footprint, and the integration of intermittent resources.

Operations Training Working Group, 11/3: During the November teleconference, the OTWG discussed potential 2009 System Operations Conference topics. They received an update on alternate communication methods to supplement satellite phone technology during emergencies. The group discussed the status of NERC PER-005 and followed up on changes to the OTWG Chair and Vice-chair positions.

Regional Tariff Working Group, 11/12: In a special meeting, the RTWG approved Balanced Portfolio compliance tariff language modifications. The group also discussed Transmission Ownership Construction Task Force (TOCTF) tariff language and Attachment J for wind cost allocation.

System Protection and Control Working Group, 11/13: The SPCWG approved the Highland Special Protection Scheme by Southwestern Public Service (SPS). The group also reviewed disturbance reports by SPS, Lubbock Power and Light, and the City of Jonesboro and discussed the misoperation in Green County Energy.

Transmission Working Group, 11/5-6, 25: At their quarterly meeting, the TWG discussed the FERC Order 890 compliance filing to approve Attachment O revisions, Nebraska base plan funding analysis, and Balanced Portfolio and EHV study schedules. The group also reviewed the 2008 SPP Transmission Expansion Plan (STEP) overview report outline and approved the 2009 STEP scope.

Other Meetings

Market Working Group, 11/17-19: 

Model Development Working Group, 11/13:

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.