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The Org Report Readership Survey

The SPP Communications Department has been publishing The Org Report for two years, and we would like your feedback on the effectiveness of this publication. We would appreciate it if you would take just a few moments to complete a six-question readership survey by clicking the following link. Thank you!

Take the survey.

SPP Implements Project to Create Holistic Vision for Transmission Planning

At the SPP Board of Directors meeting on January 27, 2009, a Synergistic Planning Project (The Project) was endorsed to address gaps and conflicts between SPP's transmission planning processes and help position the organization to respond to the Obama administration's focus on improving our nation's electric infrastructure. According to SPP President and Chief Executive Officer Nick Brown, "We need to develop a holistic view of SPP's transmission planning processes, optimizing the individual processes and how they work together as a whole. Historically, system planning and cost recovery has been reactive and based on specific requests and projects. We need to shift to a broader, proactive approach to building and paying for transmission infrastructure." Several SPP organizational group members are serving on The Project team. Read the release.

NERC/NAESB Update

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation began 2009 with several leadership appointments. The members elected a new independent board member, Jan Schori, and re-elected Rick Sergel as President and CEO. Board of Trustees member John Q. Anderson was elected Chairman, replacing the outgoing Chairman Richard Drouin. NERC is conducting an industry survey of its performance as the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO). NERC will file a report of an assessment of its performance in its first three years as ERO.

The ISO-RTO Council members, including SPP, have been working with the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) to develop a set of standards for the Measurement and Verification of Demand Response Resources. When approved by members, NAESB will file the standards with FERC for approval. SPP intends to continue working with NAESB in the development of any future proposed wholesale electric demand response standards.

The Month In Review

Board of Directors-Members Committee, 1/27: The Board of Directors/Members Committee approved several action items during this meeting. Of particular note is approval of the proposed Tariff language which reflects the Regional State Committee-approved cost allocation methodology for wind resources. The Board approved other Tariff and Criteria changes, revisions to the Membership Agreement, and revisions to several working group charters. The Board also approved Finance Committee recommendations related to future facilities for SPP and additional long-term financing. The Board adopted the 2008 Strategic Plan and the 2008 SPP Transmission Expansion Plan (STEP). Lastly, the Board established the Synergistic Planning Project team to explore new approaches to transmission planning and cost allocation.

Business Practice Working Group, 1/22: The group discussed revisions to Business Practice 2.3, which is the OASIS vendor’s change that will cause a new 14-character limitation for all sources and sinks on OASIS. The revisions of this business practice would enforce the limitation. They also discussed third party impacts and reviewed business practice 2.14.

Change Working Group, 1/28-29: The CWG discussed generators, future markets, the addition of Nebraska entities, the Consolidated Balancing Authority, OASIS replacement, Settlements replacement, and Native Load for Portfolio Scheduling. The impending ICCP network change was introduced, and more information is soon to follow. The 2009 CWG meeting calendar has been set and is posted to SPP.org.
At their January meeting, the steering committee heard an update from the Market and Operations Policy Committee and the Market Working Group on the status of the project as it relates to the future markets initiative. The committee was also presented with results from additional Area Control Error Diveristy Interchange program research relating to distribution methods and balancing authority limits.

In its monthly meeting, the CAWG heard an update on business practice development process, discussed the EHV Plan, and reviewed the MW-mile allocation process.

The Finance Committee approved acquisition of land for the construction of an operations center, as well as a preliminary budget of approximately $12.5 million. The group also approved the issuance of $30 million in term debt.

In their quarterly meeting, the HR Committee approved funding of 2008 performance compensation at 105%-110% of target. They also reviewed 2009 IT staffing, employee involvement in retirement plan management, the HR Committee scope document, and SPP staffing metrics.

The MOPC approved the consent agenda items: Business Practice Working Group revisions to BP 1.11, BP 2.12, and System Protection and Control Working Group approval of the special protection scheme at Hitchland. Also approved were working group charter revisions, PRRs 164, 176, 183, 188, 189, 191, 193 and 194, revisions to BP 2.10, BP 1.15, BP 1.16, BP 1.1 and Attachment P. The MOPC approved the Regional Tariff Working Group Attachment J and O, and the Transmission Ownership/Construction Task Force and Aggregate Study Improvement Task Force Tariff language. The MOPC endorsed SPP’s recommendation to accept the 2008 STEP and Appendix B with MW-mile upgrades.

PRR 192 (Model Update Timing) was approved, and the group heard updates from the Consolidated Balancing Authority Committee and the Cost Benefit Task Force. Also discussed were protocol revision request impact analyses and Order 719 review.

The Membership held a special meeting to elect a new seat on the Members Committee. Mr. Pat Pope from Nebraska Public Power District was elected to the Members Committee as a State/Federal Power Agencies representative.

The OTWG discussed several items at its January meeting including: the OTWG charter, the new training standard (PER-005-1), upcoming System Operations conferences, and the February Train-the-Trainer workshop. Regional classes for 2009 are beginning to fill up and participants are encouraged to sign up for courses as soon as possible.

It was reported that there have been 75 reliability standards violations within the SPP RE since June 2008, that 12,000 continuing education hours were issued by SPP RE last year, and that the 2008 self-assessment for the last quarter received 100% response. NERC developed a single Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) standard, and the Trustees approved a resolution directing the System Protection and Control Working Group to provide a draft of a regional UFLS. The final FERC RE audit report has been filed, and 20 recommendations were approved. The group also approved the 2009 SPP RE Implementation Plan.

The RSC discussed status reports concerning the Balanced Portfolio and EHV cost allocation, as well as the future markets cost/benefit study. The group also heard updates from transmission planning and the STEP, and reviewed SPP stakeholder and Board survey results.

During its monthly meetings, the RTWG approved the following items: Order 890 compliance Tariff language, Attachment 3 for wind cost allocation, aggregate study improvement Tariff language, Transmission Ownership/Construction Task Force Tariff language, BP 1.1, 1.11, 1.15, 1.16, Attachment P, and PRRs 176 and 190.

The TWG endorsed Section 3, including Appendices A and B and excluding Section 3.6, and endorsed Section 4 and Section 7 of the 2008 STEP. The group recognized the report as a fair representation of the expansion planning activities in which SPP has been involved during 2008.

The group approved the WITF charter and created an RFP to solicit vendors to complete a study regarding the impacts of additional wind generation on the SPP footprint.

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.

SPP Calendar

The Org Report Back Issues