A Milestone Month for SPP: Nebraska and the WPP

March 2009 was a milestone month for SPP due to the implementation of two major initiatives. Three Nebraska organizations completed transition of their facilities to the SPP Tariff, increasing our reliability coordinator geographic footprint by 30% and miles of transmission lines by 16%. According to SPP President and CEO Nick Brown, “The addition of the Nebraska organizations will add more diversity to SPP’s generation mix and broaden our regional energy marketplace, adding value for all of our members.” Almost 100 SPP employees were involved in the Nebraska integration project, including a number of staff secretaries. Read the news release.

Entergy’s first Weekly Procurement Process was successfully completed March 27 with oversight from SPP, which serves as the Independent Coordinator of Transmission (ICT) for Entergy. The WPP is intended to provide Entergy and its network customers optimized, short-term (weekly) purchases of wholesale energy, factoring in the transmission system’s expected capability, operating constraints, and the operating companies’ existing resources. Read the news release.

Synergistic Planning Project Update

The Synergistic Planning Project Team hosted a March 31 stakeholder meeting to review a draft report on their findings and recommendations on transmission expansion. The report summarizes formation of the team; general principles to drive proactive transmission planning; a proposed Integrated Planning Process to meet the principles and proactively identify needed expansion; and cost allocation to address revenue requirements. Comments received will be incorporated in the report, which will be presented to the Regional State Committee and Board of Directors in April. The Synergistic Planning Project now has a web page on SPP.org.

Org Report Survey Results and Response

Thank you to everyone who took the Org Report readership survey and submitted suggestions for improving the publication. Eighty percent of respondents find the publication useful, and over ninety percent asked us to continue publishing the newsletter.

In response to your comments, we are working with staff secretaries to provide more descriptive meeting summaries, links to referenced documents, and information about upcoming initiatives. We will also begin publishing the newsletter earlier in the month.

The Month In Review

**Business Practice Working Group:** The BPWG approved a revision to Business Practice 2.3 that limits the number of characters that can be used in the source and sink fields on OASIS to 14. The group approved two proposed business practices. One would provide a method to allow interim short-term service for customers experiencing extended delays in the aggregate study process. The other is related to long-term SPP service with impacts on third party transmission systems. The BPWG also approved removing from Business Practice 2.14 all references to the re-dispatch of firm service white paper, as well as removing the paper from SPP’s OASIS.

The BPWG will recommend to the Markets and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) that SPP staff be directed to develop training material pertaining to the SPP Tariff, Business Practices, processes, and procedures. The BPWG will also address how to handle third party transmission service that impacts the SPP transmission system, a second issue of the MOPC-requested “Third Party Impacts” business practice.

**Change Working Group:** To better communicate ongoing project status, the CWG voted to meet more often, adding teleconferences in addition to face-to-face meetings. All projects currently underway continue on schedule, with key milestones being the integration of the Nebraska entities on April 1, and the go-live of the new Settlements system on April 6. The PRR 181 project now has a new timeline, which was presented to the CWG for approval. The Settlements Readiness Audit was underway at the time of meeting, with an effort to report the audit findings at the next CWG meeting.

**Corporate Governance:** The CGC approved numerous Bylaws revisions for recommendation to the
Membership and Board of Directors. These revisions reflect feedback from the Chairs and Secretaries Workshops, member requests, and general clean-ups/updates. In addition, the committee approved Organizational Group rosters and began work on nominations for the Board of Directors, Members Committee, and Regional Entity Trustees for election effective January 2010.

**Critical Infrastructure Protection:** Members of the SPP CIPWG have been heavily involved in creating and reviewing new CIP standards, which will have significant impact on both physical and cyber security practices throughout our industry. The group’s goal is to develop effective and practical standards that will meet current and future needs for protecting our critical electrical infrastructure.

Additionally, the SPP Regional Entity (RE) has been working with the CIPWG to develop a CIP Standards compliance workshop, which will be held May 19-20 in Grapevine, Texas. Presentation topics will include the importance of cyber security, governance and compliance activities, sabotage reporting, technical feasibility exceptions, security assessments, information protection, and compliance information exchange. Finally, the CIPWG Secretary position has been transitioned from Kevin Perry (now with the SPP RE) to Philip Propes (SPP).

**Generation Working Group:** GWG members reviewed and commented on NERC draft standards PRC-024-1 and MOD-026-1. The group generally opposed the current draft of standard MOD-026-1 and unanimously voted to submit comments to NERC. The group also reviewed and discussed waiver requests from SPP Criteria 12.1 submitted by Nebraska Public Power District and Omaha Public Power District. The group voted by majority to recommend the SPP President accept the waivers. In future meetings, the group plans to develop SPP stability criteria.

**Market Working Group:** The MWG heard updates from the Congestion Hedging and Cost Benefit Task Forces and discussed future market decision points. PRR 198 (External Generation BP Reference) was approved with one abstention (AEP). PRR 196 (VRL Reporting Requirements) was unanimously approved. PRR 197 (LIP Repricing Flags) was approved with one abstention (Tenaska) and one no vote (Westar).

**Operating Reliability Working Group:** The ORWG discussed the upcoming Operating Reserve Task Force meeting, Nebraska integration, and upcoming entries by other organizations into SPP’s Reserve Sharing Group. Other agenda items included the annual review of the SPP Blackstart and Restoration Plans and the upcoming OATI-hosted OASIS site changeover. Business Practice 2.3 and Business Practice Revision Requests 001 and 003 were reviewed at the request of the Business Practice Working Group. PRRs 189, 196, 197, and 198 were reviewed and approved for the Market Working Group. At a special meeting on April 8, revised Criteria 5 language was reviewed to clarify the list of facilities applicable to NERC Standard FAC-003.

**Operations Training Working Group:** The OTWG Charter has been expanded to include 11 voting members. Shannon Bolan of Nebraska Public Power District was nominated for the OTWG Chair position, Doug Callison of Grand River Dam Authority was recommended to fill the voting member vacancy, and Richard Appel of Sunflower Electric Cooperatives was selected to fill the Vice-Chair position. The OTWG continues to work on the emergency communications system with the ORWG and SPP’s IT and Security Departments. The group has taken added responsibility for future market training for members. At its April meeting the OTWG will discuss PER-005-1 (Training Standard) and finalize plans for PER-005-1 workshops for SPP members. Two System Operations Conferences are scheduled for April 2009.

**Oversight Committee:** The Oversight Committee heard a preliminary 2008 State of the Market Report, which will also be presented at the April 28 Board of Directors/Members Committee meeting. The Committee directed the Market Monitoring Unit to document the process it proposes for managing market rules changes as they move through the SPP stakeholder process, including how rules changes may move forward when declined by an Organizational Group (as now required by FERC).

**Regional Tariff Working Group:** The RTWG concluded work on changes that brought SPP’s Tariff into compliance with FERC Order 719. It also completed a set of proposed Tariff changes that constitute a significant rework of generation interconnection procedures designed to improve interconnection queue processing. Both proposals were forwarded to the MOPC for review and approval. The RTWG completed its annual “unintended consequences” review of the most recent SPP Transmission Expansion Plan (required by Tariff provisions) and found that the zonal allocation of costs did not show any unintended consequences.

**System Protection and Control Working Group:** SPP’s Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) Standard Drafting Team completed SPP’s UFLS first draft and posted it to SPP.org on March 31 for a 30-day comment period. The team will meet at the conclusion of the comment period to review comments received and decide whether to move forward with the first draft. The group submitted a comment form for NERC’s First Draft of PRC-002-2 – Disturbance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements. The SPCWG reviewed and approved the following three waiver requests from the Nebraska entities and submitted them for SPP’s President’s approval: Criteria 7.1 Disturbance Monitoring equipment, Criteria 7.2.5 Transmission Protection System Maintenance and Testing Program, and Criteria 7.3 UFLS.

**Transmission Working Group:** The TWG discussed and endorsed the reliability assessment of the Balanced Portfolio. They also approved the 2008 stability study and CLECO’s Acadia Load Pocket project interconnection. The group is proposing Transmission Operative Directive Effectiveness standards and working towards implementation.
on Criteria 12.3 revisions to address Standard Operating Limits in the planning horizon. The next TWG meeting will be May 12-14 in Tulsa.

**Other Meetings**

**Cost Allocation Working Group**

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 Emily Pennel in the Communications Department with questions or comments about The Org Report.

SPP Calendar

The Org Report Back Issues