Second Annual Market Conference Brings SPP Staff and Members Together

In June, market operators from around the region came to Little Rock for the second annual Market Operations Users Conference. Topics included SPP culture, market trends, wind integration from staff and members' perspectives, integration of Nebraska, congestion management, and more.

Manager of Market Operations Sam Ellis said, “The conference helps those engaged in day-to-day, real-time operations to see the big picture and get acquainted with SPP’s mission and culture.” About 50 SPP stakeholders attended from a number of member organizations, including Empire, OG+E, Tenaska, Lincoln Electric System, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority, Xcel, Western Farmers, Omaha Public Power District, Sunflower, Westar, and Nebraska Public Power District.

Integrated Transmission Planning Updates

The new Economic Studies Working Group (ESWG) held a joint meeting with the Transmission Working Group in Dallas on June 17. The main focus of discussion was the development of the Integrated Transmission Planning (ITP) process. Breakout sessions discussed the Notification to Construct (NTC) process, model design and setup, standardization, seams/JOAs, and the One-Year ITP Process Schedule. SPP staff presented an outline and obtained feedback on these processes from stakeholders, which will be compiled into a summary and incorporated into the design of the ITP process. The ESWG is assisting the ITP process by developing the appropriate benefit metrics and creating a task force to address the particulars of these metrics. A pre-MOPC seminar about Priority Projects will be held July 14.

The Month In Review

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors had its annual education meeting. The group heard presentations from members representing the various sectors of membership. Staff presentations included the settlements process, the consolidated balancing authority initiative, and IT infrastructure.

Business Practices Working Group: Regarding language in the proposed Third Party Impacts Business Practice, Wright & Talisman provided its legal opinion that the current language does not align with the Tariff and other avenues need to be taken. The Market Working Group and Congestion Hedging Task Force updated the BPWG on Future Markets. The group discussed re-dispatch options with SPP staff, and a member requested a discussion on the time difference between Western Electricity Coordinating Council and the Eastern Interconnection and the needs to align them via the reservation and scheduling process. The BPWG plans to coordinate a meeting with the Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee.

Change Working Group: On a June 23 conference call the CWG covered timelines and project milestone dates of member-impacting projects that are currently underway. While it was necessary to delay the OASIS replacement in the weeks leading up to the final implementation, the final conversion to the new system occurred June 24.

The Settlements Replacement project has also been delayed to allow for extended testing with the goal of success when the final implementation occurs August 10.

The Ace Diversity Interchange (ADI) project is gearing up; this project is an initial effort towards SPP’s Consolidated Balancing Authority Services, and will provide those who’ve subscribed to the service with an alternate and more consistent ACE value via ICCP. Per the Market Working Group’s direction, the CWG continues to discuss the use of a consistent time zone and the systems necessary to support high availability and the Future Markets.

The CWG will meet August 6 to review SPP’s project and data modeling processes and receive member input for improving them.

Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee: The CBA Steering Committee completed the decision points related to Future Market Information sessions. The topics of discussion this month were reserve
sharing and settlements. All decision points will be coordinated with the Market Working Group and the Operations and Reliability Working Group regarding CBA operations and system requirements. The group completed a final review to the Area Control Error Diversity Interchange Agreement and the document has been sent to the members for review by their participants and legal representation. In July, ADI system programming should be completed with a plan to move to testing in August.

**Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group:** The CIPWG held its regular quarterly meeting June 30. The group continued working with the CIP Standards Drafting Team (SDT) to develop CIP version 3 standards. Philip Huff (AECC) and Joe Doetzi (KCPL) are members of this drafting team, and each has provided continuous updates to the CIPWG regarding SDT activities. All CIP-related activities can be referenced on the NERC website. Also, the NERC CIP Committee met June 10 in Toronto. Access meeting minutes. The Violation Severity Levels (VSL) Drafting Team has posted its Violation Severity Levels for CIP-001 (Sabotage Reporting), which is open for ballot until July 31, 2009. The Violation Severity Levels for CIP Standards CIP-002-1 through CIP-009-1 were open for ballot through June 24, 2009.

**Market and Operations Policy Committee:** MOPC had a special meeting on June 12 to consider the Balanced Portfolio Report; its approval triggered Notices to Construct to Transmission Owners. The MOPC also considered four waivers for Base Plan Funding and a Special Protection Scheme for Westar.

**Market Working Group:** The Market Working Group held its monthly meeting June 15-17 and approved the Congestion Hedging Mechanism Recommendation. PRR 195, which has some changes to Attachment AM of the Tariff (Meter Agent Agreement), was approved.

**Operations Training Working Group:** The OTWG changed its charter to reflect the addition of market participant training to the group’s scope, and decided that changing its reporting structure from the ORWG to the MOPC would be appropriate considering the expanded scope. The OTWG recommended hiring two additional SPP trainers in 2010 to support new requirements of System Operations Conferences, design and development for scenario-based learning events, and Dispatcher Training Simulator scenario development and testing. There are two vacancies on the OTWG that will be filled in the next few weeks.

**Oversight Committee:** At its regular quarterly meeting the Oversight Committee heard reports from the Market Monitoring and Compliance departments, and received its first report from the Internal Audit department. The Committee approved a Market Rules Change Process for recommendation to the Board of Directors for compliance with Order 719.

**Regional Entity Trustees:** On June 24, the RE Trustees met to approve the 2010 SPP RE Business Plan and Budget and the Three-Year Self Assessment to be submitted to NERC. The Business Plan outlined that the 2010 RE budget is $7.4 million, including adding eight additional RE staff. Read the SPP RE Three-Year Assessment.

**Regional Tariff Working Group:** The RTWG continued work on Delivery Point Addition Tariff language revisions, the Notification to Construct white paper written by the Transmission Working Group, and an Interim Interconnection Procedure and Agreement. They approved proposed Tariff language in PRR 195, which cleans up Attachment AM and AE. The RTWG began considering the Transmission Constructor Selection Process, for which there will probably be a cross-sectional task force created. Tariff revisions required by FERC Order 890 were also introduced and will be on the agenda at the July meeting. Finally, the RTWG discussed how Nebraska requests should be handled.

**System Protection and Control Working Group:** The System Protection and Control Working Group approved the City of Clarksdale’s Special Protection Scheme for the Crossroads autotransformer. SPP’s Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) Standard Drafting Team is in the process of responding to comments received from the first draft of the regional standard for SPP’s UFLS program. The Standard Drafting Team is creating the second draft of SPP’s UFLS Regional standard, and will post it for comment once it is complete.

**Other Meetings**

**Operating Reliability Working Group**

**Upcoming Meetings**

July 6 - Future Market Info Sessions
July 6 - OTWG Teleconference
July 7 - ORWG Conference Call
July 7 - Model Development Working Group Net Conference
July 7 - Transmission Settlements Outreach Teleconference
July 7 - ESWG/TWG/ITP Conference Call
This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For more information about a group, please visit SPP.org and select that committee on the Org Groups page. Documents are located in the left column.

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

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