Happy Holidays from SPP!

Our entire organization joins in sending season's greetings to all of our stakeholders.

Market Working Group Holds Two Meetings; Reviews Future Markets Mid-Level Design

The Market Working Group met twice in November, reserving one day for current business activities, four days for outstanding Future Markets design decision topics, and three days for review of the draft Future Markets Mid-Level Design document. The MWG received updates on market monitoring activities and a number of relevant regulatory items, including the Year-End Tariff Clean-Up filing. The group reviewed outstanding Protocol Revision Requests and continued their in-depth review of outstanding Future Markets design decision topics, including Unstructured Resource Deviation, Marginal vs. Average Losses, Zonal Procurement of Operating Reserves, and Real-Time Make-Whole Payment examples. The group reviewed the Mid-Level Design document, which summarizes in detail past decision matrix items and sets the structure from which the Future Markets protocols will be written. This document will be provided to the Markets and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) for feedback once the MWG agrees that all Future Markets design decisions to-date have been accurately documented.

New Transmission Atlas Available

The SPP Transmission Atlas contains over 60 detailed maps that include transmission and generation assets, interstate highways, waterways, major urban areas, and more. The atlas includes an index with page numbers for each station and urban area in the SPP and Entergy footprints. Please visit our Request an SPP Map/Model page for detailed information about requesting your copy.

November Meeting Summaries

Cost Allocation Working Group: The CAWG discussed cost allocation/Priority Project resolutions and directions identified during the October Regional State Committee and Board of Director meetings. The group reviewed some possible methodologies for distinguishing highway facilities from byway facilities. Other discussion items included the 2010 meeting schedule and a staff proposal for increasing the size of the Knoll transformer, part of the Spearville–Knoll–Axtell Balanced Portfolio project.

Economic Studies Working Group: The ESWG focused on advising and assisting SPP staff in developing the 2010 Integrated Transmission Planning (ITP) 20-Year Assessment, as well as the second phase of Priority Project analysis. The 20-Year ITP scope was presented in outline form, and the group provided feedback on how to appropriately adjust it. They also reviewed and refined the ITP scenarios document. The ESWG made recommendations about Priority Project analysis assumptions involving renewable generation, including wind levels, location, and dispatch price. They drafted a list of data that would be obtained from publicly-available sources, along with data that would be company-specific for the purpose of market-based modeling. Upcoming, the ESWG will make further recommendations about Priority Projects assumptions, including placement of wind generation, and review staff recommendations on the 20-Year Assessment process that will be reported to the Strategic Planning Committee.

Model Development Working Group: The MDWG held two conference calls to approve the MDWG Powerflow and MOD manuals. The group kicked off the model building effort for the 2010 series models.

Operating Reliability Working Group: The ORWG reviewed draft Criteria language concerning Reliability Coordination and Reserve Sharing. Proposed changes are clarifications of existing processes and closer alignment of the language to NERC Standards. The group plans to review the policy recommendations that will come out of the Wind Integration NERC Task Force study.
Operations Training Working Group: SPP Training Manager Jim Gunnell reported that the Dispatch Training Simulator (DTS) Engineer position has been approved for 2010. The position will work closely with regional trainers to build regional and sub-regional emergency response scenarios and provide DTS support for training events which utilize the simulator. The Job Task Analysis taskforce reported it would begin the second phase of job task analysis in December by grouping related tasks into processes and identifying concepts related to each task. The first job role they will address is Transmission Operator. Registration for 2010 regional training events opened on November 10. The OTWG will solicit topic ideas from their system operators for the 2010 System Operations Conferences. The group is soliciting nominations for three vacancies and will discuss the nominations at its December meeting.

Regional Tariff Working Group: The RTWG completed their review of the TWG's Notification to Construct white paper during a conference call. The white paper will now go back to the TWG for their review of the RTWG's changes. The RTWG is working on several items, including revisions to Attachment V to incorporate generators below 20 MW, the addition of Attachment AR to incorporate a screening study prior to the Aggregate Study process or for transfers of delivery points, and Tariff revisions related to the ITP and new highway/byway cost allocation methodology.

Strategic Planning Committee: The SPC held two special meetings in November and early December with the leadership of the MOPC, ESWG, and TWG to provide policy level guidance to staff on Priority Projects and ITP.

System Protection and Control Working Group: The SPCWG discussed comments received on the second draft of SPP’s Under Frequency Load Shedding standard. The SPCWG, which is acting as a Standard Drafting Team, will meet again via net conference in December to work on providing responses to stakeholder comments regarding the draft standard.

Transmission Working Group: The TWG discussed Criteria 4 revisions and approved Appendix 11 revisions and the Prairie Winds/Tallgrass Interconnection Review. The TWG will now begin to look at the impacts of the new Transmission Planning (TPL) Standard to SPP processes and members. Upcoming items to be discussed in on-going TWG conference calls: review and endorsement of the 2009 SPP Transmission Expansion Plan Report (reliability portions) and Appendix B; approval of the ITP 20-Year Assessment scope and timeline in conjunction with ESWG; and approval of the Priority Projects Phase 2 Reliability Report.

January Meetings

January 5 - Economic Studies Working Group
January 5 - System Protection and Control Working Group Net Conference
January 6 - Cost Allocation Working Group
January 7 - Regional Tariff Working Group
January 11 - Operations Training Working Group Teleconference
January 12/13 - Markets and Operations Policy Committee Meeting
January 14 - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
January 18-21 - Market Working Group Meeting
January 18 - Cost Allocation Working Group Conference Call
January 19 - Human Resources Committee Meeting
January 20/21 - Operating Reliability Working Group Meeting
January 25 - Regional State Committee Meeting
January 25 - Future Market Workshop
January 25 - Regional Entity Trustee Meeting
January 26 - Board of Directors-Members Committee Meeting
January 26/27 - Cost Allocation Working Group
January 28 - Regional Tariff Working Group

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For more information about a group, please visit SPP.org and select it 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.

SPP Calendar
The Org Report Back Issues