A Final Letter from Stacy Dochoda’s Desk

As I write this final letter, I feel both gratitude and fondness for the people I’ve come to know and respect in the SPP RE region. You may have heard that I have accepted the position of President and CEO of the Florida Reliability Coordinating Council and will begin my new job this week; the SPP RE Trustees appointed Ron Ciesiel as Acting General Manager.

I have enjoyed my time at SPP RE tremendously, especially working with the fine staff, Trustees, Directors, members, and stakeholders. The SPP RE Trustees - John Meyer, David Christiano and Gerry Burrows - have supported our need to grow and develop into a fully capable organization. I will always be grateful for their support and thoughtful oversight. I am thankful to the SPP RE leadership team - Ron Ciesiel, Kevin Perry, Joe Gertsch, and Alice Wright - for their expertise and leadership. I leave a staff with an inspiring combination of strong skills and eagerness to work with our Registered Entities to make a positive impact on reliability. Thank you to Nick Brown and the SPP Board of Directors for being strong advocates for outreach to help Registered Entities be successful in their compliance programs. I thank the SPP shared staff - especially David Kelly, Chris Haley, and Jason Speer - who provided significant support on reliability assessments and the regional standard effort.

Many thanks to our SPP RE representatives on NERC committees - Noman Williams, Jim Useldinger, Robert McClanahan, Jennifer Flandermeyer, and Jeremy West - for their dedication to representing SPP RE at NERC. Lastly, I thank the Registered Entities’ employees and leaders who have worked so hard, often under less than ideal circumstances, to integrate compliance into their everyday work and invest in improving reliability. I hope to continue seeing many of you at NERC and other industry meetings. Sincerely - Stacy

Regional Standards Update

The regional Under Frequency Load Shedding standard, PRC-006-SPP-1, was presented to the Regional Entity Trustees for action on 4/23. After much discussion with attendees, the Trustees deferred action until their 7:30 meeting, when we may have additional information regarding the status of the NERC UFLS standard.

We recently submitted a Request to MOPC to form a task force to identify and recommend
revisions to the Regional Standards Process. The task force scope is drafted and posted for review.

**FERC Approves CIP Standards Version 4**

On 4/19, FERC approved version 4 of eight CIP standards. The main difference between Version 3 and Version 4 is in CIP-002-4, which changes the way Critical Assets are identified. It includes a uniform “bright line” criteria for identifying Critical Assets, replacing the “risk-based assessment methodology” developed and applied by individual responsible entities under Version 3. The final rule imposes a deadline of 3/31/13 for NERC to submit CIP Version 5. NERC is accepting comments and successive votes on Version 5 through 5/21/12.

According to Kevin Perry, SPP RE Director of Critical Infrastructure Protection, “There has been significant industry discussion suggesting entities do not need to plan for compliance with CIP-002-4, because the proposed Version 5 implementation plan calls for remaining on Version 3 until Version 5 goes into effect. There is no guarantee FERC will approve Version 5 before the Version 4 effective date of 4/1/14, and there is no guarantee FERC will ‘set aside’ Version 4 in favor of Version 5. Entities that wait until approval of Version 5 may find themselves unable to fully comply with Version 4 by the effective date.”

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**SPP RE Webinars and Workshops**

**Not too Late to Register for 5/22-23 CIP Workshop; Net Conference Available**

Participants at our annual CIP workshop will see a SCADA Hack Demo by the Dept. of Homeland Security and hear about Current Threats and Tactics, the NERC CIP Cyber Vulnerability Assessment, CIP Audit Process, Access Control Lists, User Access Controls, CIP 007-R1, and more. You may register to attend via net conference or in-person. Reserve your room now; the Doubletree room block rate of $109 expires after 5/7/12.

**5/30, 9:00 Webinar for Stakeholder Input on Long Term Reliability Assessment**

SPP RE and RTO staff will solicit stakeholder feedback and input into the 2012 Long-Term Reliability Assessment before it is finalized and sent to NERC. Your input to the regional reliability assessment process is important and greatly appreciated. Registration

**5/31, 2:00 Webinar on Standards Effective 2012/2013**

Our 693 compliance staff will review a FAC standard effective 4/13, a PER standard effective 10/12, and four EOP standards effective 7/13; the EOP standards may require longer-term planning to be compliant. Registration

**Save the Date - 11/13-14 Fall Workshop in Little Rock**

Net conference and in-person registration is open for our fall workshop in the heart of Little Rock’s vibrant River Market district. Save the date – More details coming soon!
SPP RE Preliminary Business Plan and Budget

Our preliminary 2013 budget is $11.5 M, representing an 8% reduction in entity assessments and a 0.06% increase over 2012 (compared to 16% and 20% increases in the previous two years’ budgets). We are adding one shared staff FTE to support the Reliability Assessment and Performance Assessment (RAPA) program. Budget risks include the proposed BES definition-exception procedure, travel expenses, duration of CIP on-site audits, and the number and complexity of Event Analysis investigations. The final budget will be presented at the 6/19 RE Trustees meeting for approval.

NERC News

New Online:

- Revised 2012 Actively Monitored List and 2012 ERO CMEP Implementation Plan. Contact Kyle Howells or Jim Hughes for more information.
- 2011 NERC Grid Security Exercise After Action Report
- Draft Version 5 CIP Standards streaming webinar and slide presentation
- Participant Q&A from FAC Alert Recommendation Update webinar

NERC Events

5/2-3, Model Validation Workshop, Atlanta. Details and Registration
5/3, 10:00 ET, NERC Draft 2013 Business Plan and Budget Webinar. Registration
5/22, Frequency Response Technical Conference, Arlington, VA. Registration and Details
5/24, Frequency Response Technical Conference, Denver, CO. Registration and Details

Have a NERC question but don’t know who to ask?

NERC created new Q&A inboxes for topics such as Audit Assurance and Oversight, ESISAC, CIPC, Human Performance, System Operator Certification, and Technology Product/Service Vendor.

New webRegistry System Open

NAESB and OATI announced the new electric industry webRegistry is open. The new system, formerly called Transmission System Information Network (TSIN), is the central repository for information to support commercial, schedule, and transmission management operations in North America. You must complete an application form to participate.
Standards/Interpretations/CANs/RSAWs Under Development

NERC’s weekly standards bulletin lists standards/interpretations/CANs/RSAWS posted for comment, open ballot pools, pending ballots, standard drafting team vacancies, and upcoming meetings. You can always get the latest version online or contact Mallory Huggins to have it delivered to your inbox.

Quick Reference

SPP RE

2012 Compliance Plan/Schedules - Calendar/Events - Compliance/Enforcement - File Clerk - Homepage - Regional Standards Under Development - Registration Application/Change Form - Subscribe to SPP email lists - Training/Education - webCDMS

NERC


Our Staff

We are happy to help you with any questions or concerns.

RE Trustees

John Meyer, Chairman and Trustee
Gerry Burrows, Trustee
Dave Christiano, Trustee

You can share concerns or feedback directly with the SPP RE Trustees by calling 888-394-2292. The phone line is staffed by a third-party provider who will ask if you want to remain anonymous. While SPP RE staff is always available to answer questions and discuss issues, this phone line gives stakeholders another tool for addressing compliance concerns.

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This newsletter was sent to:
Board/Members Committee exploder
Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group exploder
Markets and Operations Policy Committee exploder
To subscribe, visit our email list page and select Regional Entity News. Back issues are also posted. If you have questions about this publication, please contact Emily Pennel at (501) 614-3337.

*SPP RE* is an independent and functionally separate division of SPP, Inc. that promotes and works to improve bulk electric system (BES) reliability. SPP RE oversees the development of regional reliability standards; monitors and enforces Registered Entities’ compliance with reliability standards; assesses and evaluates BES reliability; and provides technical expertise and assistance to BES owners, operators, and users - in particular to Registered Entities located within SPP RE’s eight-state footprint that includes all or parts of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.