Lesson Learned
Capacity Awareness during an Energy Emergency Event

Primary Interest Groups
Transmission Owners
Transmission Operators
Generation Owners
Generation Operators
Balancing Area
Load Serving Entity

Problem Statement: System Operators need to be aware of a Balancing Area’s Capacity situation during an EEA-3 event.

Details: The loss of an entity’s largest generation plant immediately placed the entity in a capacity and energy deficiency. The inability to start all available generation and to import power into the Balancing Area (BA) due to transmission congestion outside the Balancing Area caused the Reliability Coordinator (RC) to call an Energy Emergency Alert 3 (EEA3). This immediately freed up transmission capability, allowing purchased energy to flow into the entity’s Balancing Area. However, the EEA3 continued for six hours because both the BA System Operators and the RC Operators did not seem to be aware of the entity’s capacity position.

Corrective Actions: The entity will develop a calculation tool for System Operators to keep them informed of the BA capacity balance on a real time basis; thus allowing the RC to make informed decisions regarding energy emergencies in the BA.

Lesson Learned: A review of the event indicates that System Operators need to be more vigilant of the entity’s capacity position at all times. As resources were being brought online after the EEA3 was called by the RC, sufficient firm capacity became available to cover the entities load and reserve requirements. System Operators should be aware of the BA’s capacity situation at all times, and in particular during and after an EEA has been declared.

For more information please contact:
Alan Wahlstrom
Lead Engineer
Event Analysis and Reliability Assessments
awahlstrom.re@spp.org
501-688-1624

Deborah Currie
Lead Engineer
Event Analysis and Reliability Assessments
dcurrie.re@spp.org
501-688-8228

This Lesson Learned was prepared by the SPP Registered Entity that experienced the event. Company specific identifiers were removed to maintain confidentiality.