NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC)
Report to Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity Trustees
Submitted by Robert McClanahan, Chair, SPP Critical Infrastructure Protection WG
January 13, 2011

- The NERC CIPC held its quarterly meeting in Tampa, FL on December 8-9, 2010. The agenda for this meeting can be found at http://www.nerc.com/docs/cip/CIPC_Agenda_8Dec10-final.pdf.
  - CIPC Members with clearances attended a classified briefing hosted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Energy (DOE) prior to the start of the CIPC meeting. There have been issues in the past with the quality and timeliness of the information provided in these briefings. Efforts have been made over the past several years to improve these briefings and include more actionable content. The quality of this briefing indicates that efforts are, indeed, being made by DHS and DOE to provide
  - CIPC held elections to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee. Chuck Abell of Ameren was elected to the open Vice-Chair position. Marc Child of Great River Energy was elected to fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee created by Chuck's move to Vice Chair.
  - CIPC continues work to revisit and update its Security Guidelines for the industry. These guidelines are not guidelines in support of standards, but are intended to provide general guidance and best practices on security-related matters.
- The schedule for CIPC meetings for 2011 follows:
  - March 9-10, 2011 in Phoenix, AZ
  - June 8-9, 2011
  - September 14-15, 2011
  - December 14-15, 2011
- The industry has approved the most recent version of CIP-002 (-4), which includes "bright line" criteria for identification of Critical Assets. These bright line criteria can be summarized as follows:
  - Generation stations with aggregate rating of 1500 MW or greater
  - Reactive resources with aggregate rating of 1000 MVAR or greater
  - Generation facilities designated by the Planning Coordinator or Transmission Planner as necessary to avoid adverse reliability impacts in the long-term planning horizon
  - Blackstart resources identified the Transmission Operator's restoration plan
  - Facilities in the cranking path of a blackstart resources, up to the point where the path separates into two or more routes
  - Transmission facilities operated at 500 kV or greater
  - Transmission facilities operated at 300 kV or greater at stations or substations which are interconnected at 300 kV or greater with three or more other stations or substations
  - Transmission facilities at a single locations that are identified as critical to the derivation of IROLs

- Flexible AC Transmission Systems (FACTS) at a single location that are identified as critical to the derivation of IROLs
- Transmission Facilities providing the generation interconnection required to connect generator identified as critical in the preceding criteria
- Transmission Facilities identified as essential to meeting Nuclear Plant Interface Requirements
- Special Protection Systems (SPS), Remedial Action Schemes (RAS) or automated switching systems that operates BES Elements that, if destroyed, degraded, misused or otherwise rendered unavailable, would cause one or more Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits (IROLs) violations
- Systems or Facilities that perform automatic load shedding of 300 MW or more implementing Under Voltage Load Shedding (UVLS) or Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) as required by the regional load shedding program
- Control centers (primary or backup) which:
  - Perform the functional obligations of the Reliability Coordinator
  - Control generation at multiple plant locations, for any generation Facility or group of generation Facilities identified in in preceding criteria
  - Control generation equal to or exceeding 1500 MW in a single Interconnection
  - Perform the functional obligations of the Transmission Operator that includes control of at least one asset identified in preceding criteria
  - Perform the functional obligations of the Balancing Authority that includes at least one asset identified in preceding criteria

- The NERC Board of Trustees will decide on approving Standards CIP-002-4 through CIP-009-4 at their January meeting, and NERC expects to file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by the end of January. There have been no indications as to when FERC approval would be seen, but the SDT estimates that September 30th might be the absolute earliest FERC would approve the Standards, which would make the earliest effective date October 1, 2013.
- The CSO706 SDT continues work on addressing the remaining 50+ FERC directives in Order 706. The team has begun responding to comments from the CIP-010 and CIP-011 informal posting in May of last year. The Standards Committee and NERC leadership have indicated they would like to see the project complete by the end of this year. To accomplish this, the project schedule has the first posting for comment in June. There are several timing issues to work out with implementation plans of rapidly successive versions, and there will be multiple opportunities for industry feedback and education along the process. Philip Huff of Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation is Vice Chair of the SDT. Joe Doetzel of KCP&L is also a member of the group. Bryn Wilson of OG&E is a frequent observer.
- The industry submitted responses to NERC's survey on the Aurora vulnerability on December 13th. There has been no further information released on the subject, but expect that further action will be required of the industry.
- There are numerous bills circulating on Capitol Hill that could impact critical infrastructure protection the electric industry. Grid security has bipartisan support in both houses of Congress, which could lead to legislation this year.