Ron Ciesiel
SPP RE General Manager
Rciesiel.re@spp.org

Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity
201 Worthen Drive
Little Rock, AR 72233
P 501-614-3265

TO: SPP Regional Entity Trustees

FROM: Ron Ciesiel, SPP RE General Manager

DATE : April 29, 2013

SUBJECT: SPP RE General Manager Report

Emerging Issues

NERC Reliability Assurance Initiative [RAI]

NERC has posted a series of whitepapers on revamping a number of their processes to become more efficient and effective in carrying out its duties. The topics include a revamped Standards Development Process, Compliance Oversight Process, and Enforcement Process. See http://www.nerc.com/page.php?cid=3|443.

All five of NERC's proposed white papers on this subject are now posted at the site noted above and development of the processes and feedback from interested stakeholders is underway.

The RE Executives met in a strategic retreat to discuss this initiative and lay out an ERO strategy of rolling this initiative out to the underlying SPP Registered Entities/Members.

The first step in this initiative is the implementation of the standardized audit checklist developed through a 3rd party assessment of the RE audit practices and processes. All of the REs have agreed to implement this standardized audit process as soon as practical, realizing that audit packages through July 2013 have already been issued in most regions.

BES Definition and Exemption Process

NERC and the Regional Entities continue the development of the BES Exemption Process steps while waiting for final approval of the BES definition.

FERC has made a final ruling with an expected initiation date of July 1, 2013.

The REs are relying on NERC to fulfill its obligation to post and activate a common IT platform to process exception requests.

The RE and NERC reps of the development working group met during the week of April 22nd to finalize outstanding issues and map out a rollout strategy. The rollout strategy includes training for RE staff in May and then a rollout series of webinars/workshops to the registered entities in June 2013.

2014 Preliminary Budget Development

A team from the SPP RE with support from SPP RTO staff developed the 1st draft of the 2014 SPP RE Budget. A copy of the 1st draft has been included under another Agenda item in this agenda.

Public Speaking Engagements

I spoke at the SPP Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group meeting on March 12, 2013 before approximately 25 CIP subject matter experts.

Alan Wahlstrom has been invited to speak at a Modeling Workshop being sponsored by the SPP RTO in April 2013.

I have been invited to speak to the AEP Compliance Forum in May 2013, in Columbus, Ohio.

I have also been invited, along with the other RE Executives, to speak at the EEI Conference in June 2013.

Administrative and Organizational Issues

Organizational

The following employee has an employment anniversary around this time of year and I would like to recognize the following employees for their years of service:

Clay Layson	3 years
Bob Reynolds	2 years

Staffing

The following personnel were added to the RE staff since the last RE Trustees Meeting:

Greg Sorenson Senior Compliance Engineer [returned from Military Duty on February 20, 2013]

Stephanie Kimp Law Clerk [Returned from short absence in order to prepare for the Arkansas Bar Exam]

The following personnel left the RE staff since the last report:

None

Currently, the SPP RE has 4 open positions, including the Director of Compliance position, Manager of Accounting, one compliance technical position, and a Law Clerk [not actively seeking a replacement at this time].

Administrative

A team of SPP RE personnel has developed displays and file management techniques for the approved SPP RE Goals and Metrics. The displays are shown under another agenda item at this meeting. With approval of the Trustees, the display will be made public and updated monthly on the SPP RE public website.

The SPP RE Trustees have been invited to meet with the NERC Board of Trustees on May 7th in Boston, MA, in advance of the NERC Board meetings.

Respectfully submitted:

Ronald W. Ciesiel
SPP RE General Manager
April 29, 2013