

SPP Outage Coordination Proposal

Issue

Currently, SPP only approves or denies transmission outages based on reliability concerns. Therefore, the societal cost of congestion and curtailments on end users is not considered.

Recommendations

1. Create a new class of transmission outage in CROW to act as a placeholder, i.e. “potential”. SPP would not study the request for approval. The “potential” transmission outage is just for information and is not binding. The outages would be posted on OASIS.
2. SPP should periodically review transmission outages and identify areas of increased congestion being caused by transmission and generation outages. SPP should work with transmission and generation owners to rescheduled outages to minimize these congestion impacts. Movement of outages is not required.
3. Seasonally, SPP should bring together all transmission owners and review the outages in the upcoming maintenance season. SPP should identify areas of concern and work with affected transmission owners to identify any mitigation measures possible.

Assumptions

1. The Control Room Operators Window (CROW) system is sufficient for outage scheduling.
2. The lead time on transmission outage entry vary by transmission owner.
3. SPP only considers reliability when approving or denying outage requests.

Discussion o Recommendations

1.

Not all transmission owners feel comfortable identifying transmission outages well into the future. It is understandable that a transmission owner would want to wait for more certainty in requesting an outage. A transmission owner does not want to be perceived as misleading the market if the outage needs to be moved or be cancelled.

Therefore, a new placeholder, “potential”, class of outage in CROW would allow transmission owners to make their best estimate on identifying and scheduling future transmission outages. SPP would list and identify the “potential” outage on OASIS. This would provide valuable forward- looking information to the market.

Further, The transmission owner would need to move the outage request from “potential” to “planned “ before SPP would approve or deny it.

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2.

Currently, SPP only considers reliability when approving or denying transmission and generator outage requests. Therefore, significant congestion and curtailments can occur. Societal benefits and costs are not considered. Therefore, SPP should periodically assess whether the rescheduling of transmission or generator outages would significantly decrease societal costs. SPP should work with the identified transmission and generator owners and attempt to reschedule the outages. However, rescheduling any outage is not required.

It would be difficult for SPP to accurately quantify the cost, through a production cost modeling, of moving transmission and generator outages. The number of outage requests is too great and dynamic. Therefore, SPP should use its operations and planning experience to identify areas of increased congestion caused by transmission and generator outages.

3.

Normal SPP transmission maintenance typically occurs in the spring and fall when demand is lower. Further, there are transmission outages occurring, and scheduled to occur, due to the many transmission upgrades and improvements currently underway. Therefore, SPP should take a more proactive role in identifying areas of significant congestion and facilitating possible mitigation. SPP should hold a seasonal, transmission owner (only) meeting to review the upcoming outages and areas of concern. SPP would use its years of operations and planning experience to identify the areas of concern.

SPP and the transmission owners would work together and identify ways to reduce the societal cost of the outages, if possible. However, none of SPP's recommendations would be binding. Further, after the transmission owner meeting, SPP should consider a full stakeholder meeting to discuss the upcoming maintenance season.