

**Southwest Power Pool
WESTERN RELIABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 13, 2022
8am to 10am MDT (9am to 11am CDT)
Net Conference**

• M I N U T E S •

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Denton McGregor called the meeting to order at 8:05 am MST (9:00 am CST) on Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

2. Attendance and Quorum Determination

CJ Brown took attendance and confirmed the meeting was initially 3 short of quorum. Quorum was met at 8:35 am MDT (9:35 MDT). Robert Bray attended with Shane Sanders proxy.

3. Review and approval of WREC meeting agenda

Denton McGregor reviewed the meeting agenda with the committee. Sam Rugel motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Robert Bray; with no further discussion or opposition, the agenda was approved.

4. Approval of WREC Minutes from Wednesday, October 27, 2021 open meeting

Denton McGregor reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting with the committee and requested a motion for approval. Keith Carman motioned to approve, seconded by Abel Bustillos; with no further discussion or opposition, the motion was approved.

5. Review of Past Action Items

- a. **ACTION ITEM:** West-Wide Congestion Management Process to be further reviewed at the next meeting. – On today's agenda.
- b. **ACTION ITEM:** SPP planning reserve activities with NWPP to be discussed at the next meeting. – On today's agenda.

6. WRWG Updates and Approval Items

Marc Desmarais updated the group on the latest WRWG activity. WRWG is meeting January 26. The agenda will include 2022 training, Blackstart R-Comm testing, CIP-012 update, SOL Equipment Ratings, IROL Guidelines, Outage Coordination Request Date Requirements, RC Metrics, FERC Order 881, and COVID-19.

7. West-Wide Congestion Management Process

Yasser Bahbaz (SPP) discussed ongoing efforts on ECC West-Wide Congestion Management. SPP presented options with a short-term and long-term goals approach.

8. NWPP Planning Reserve Activities Update

Charles Cates (SPP) gave the group a general overview of the NWPP Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP), footprint and Ops Program development timeline.

Charles Hendrix (SPP), who manages the Resource Adequacy Group at SPP, also addressed the committee.

9. WEIS Progress Report

Yasser Bahbaz (SPP) gave overview of the WEIS market, challenges and plans. Overall it is going well. WMWG can be followed for more details. Colorado Springs (CSU) participation has been delayed to August 2022.

10. EIM Project Update

Sam Rugel noted TEP is in market simulation. They have transferred to OSI EMS. Last week they did a Day-in-the-Life with EIM. All systems are configured and communicating. Parallel Ops begin in February. April 1 is their scheduled Go-Live. Sam is impressed with how fast SPP stood up an imbalance market (WEIS) and added that EIM required any dynamic schedules with neighbors be re-configured as pseudo ties, which required some time.

Abel Bustillos (El Paso) is planned to Go-Live in 2023. They are using all OATI market systems; ~7 different modules.

11. COVID-19

CJ Brown (SPP) shared that SPP is pushing the beginning of Phase 4, with all staff back in the office in a hybrid model, to March 1, 2022. Cases are currently in larger numbers but typically milder symptoms. Per the OSHA mandate, unvaccinated employees will have to test weekly at their cost and upload results.

Keith Carman (Tri-State) noted that they will facilitate testing for unvaccinated at the employees' expense. A February 27 return to work in the office is planned. In their crisis meeting this morning, their COVID expert stated it was likely everyone will get omicron. He wonders if at some point it would be wise to rip the band-aid, like a chicken pox play party of old.

Black Hills is providing testing for unvaccinated employees. Denton added that if anyone doesn't feel well, they work remotely until symptoms subside. They are looking at remote work options for Operators. CJ Brown noted that SPP CIP Compliance Staff had a lot of heartburn with SPP looking at remote Operator options. So a "sick" control room was temporarily stood up last year.

TEP, like many, is on hold waiting to see what courts rule regarding the OSHA mandate and waiting for case numbers reverse to come back in the office fully. Some staff, at all levels, is currently out with COVID.

98% of El Paso's staff is vaccinated or exempt. They started back in the office Monday, January 10.

CSU, so far, is not requiring vaccination or inquired to the vaccination status of staff. They have been fully back in the office since August.

Farmington setup a platform for voluntarily letting the company know your vaccination status. WAPA, being a DOE entity, falls under federal employee rules. They are working with the DOE on returning to the office, tentatively mid-February. A high level of telework is anticipated.

CJ Ingersoll noted GridForce is also waiting for a court ruling to respond accordingly. They are fully in the office.

AEPCO implemented return to work last summer. They have been hit hard through the winter with cases and are re-evaluating potentially returning to a remote work program.

PSCo had a January 10 return to office planned, then pushed to February 1 for limited/hybrid return. Flex work plan will stagger returns.

12. Other Items

CJ Brown reminded the group that billing was sent out late last year. Notices should be in your email.

Summer Preparedness Activities will be on next meeting’s agenda. Ops Planning Staff that can speak to summer assessment, etc. is encouraged to attend.

13. Summary of Action Items

- a. N/A

14. Future Meetings

Format (in-person vs WebEx) of future 2022 meetings to be discussed at the April meeting. Hybrid options, where some attendees are in person and some participate via WebEx, likely.

<u>Tentative Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Host</u>
April 14, 2022	8am-10am MT	WebEx
July 14, 2022	8am-10am MT	TBD
October 13, 2022	8am-10am MT	TBD

15. Adjournment

Denton McGregor called for a motion to adjourn open meeting at 9:48 am MDT (10:48 CDT) and move to executive session. Keith Carman motioned to approve, seconded by Bob Staton; with no further discussion or opposition, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
CJ Brown
WREC Staff Secretary

Attendance:

Denton McGregor (BHE, WREC Vice Chair)

Abel Bustillos (El Paso)

Bob Staton (PSCo)

Chris Bultsma (WAPA)

CJ Ingersoll (Gridforce)

Eric Baran (WIRAB)

Hank Adair (Farmington)

Jonathan Aust (WAPA)

Keith Carman (Tri-State)

Kylah McNabb

Marc Desmarais (WAPA)

Robert Bray (AEPCO)

Sam Rugel (TEP)

Steve Ashbaker (WECC)

Warren Rust (CSU)

Kokou Agbassekou (CAISO)

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CJ Brown (SPP, WREC Staff Secretary)

Hamilton Bitely (SPP)

Brian Strickland (SPP)

Charles Cates (SPP)

Charles Hendrix (SPP)

David Daniels (SPP)

Yasser Bahbaz (SPP)