
The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



December 2010

[NERC/NAESB Update](#)
[Integrated Marketplace Update](#)
[November Meeting Summaries](#)
[Other Meetings](#)
[January Meetings](#)

Regional Planning/Priority Projects “Recently Asked Questions” Posted

One of the many benefits of regional planning is the additional transparency and visibility it brings to the process of building new transmission infrastructure. This ["recently asked questions" document](#) provides additional information about the roles of SPP, Transmission Owners, and regulators in the planning process, as well as about Priority Projects specifically.

NERC Update

FERC held a technical conference on November 18 focusing on NERC's Compliance Monitoring Enforcement Program. All FERC commissioners and the chairman attended the conference, which focused on the program's impact on stakeholders and the Regional Entities that perform compliance audits. The commissioners heard examples from registered entities and Regional Entities about the current program's inefficiencies and suggestions to better promote reliability behaviors while reducing burdens on demonstrating compliance. NERC intends to submit to FERC an abbreviated compliance procedure for administrative violations. In his closing comment, FERC Chairman Wellinghoff asked what the commission could do to improve the process.

November Meeting Summaries

[Change Working Group:](#) The group reviewed the role of the former Market Implementation Task Force, as the CWG will be responsible for coordinating the implementation, testing, and deployment of the Integrated Marketplace. Planning for the upcoming work, the group drafted a scope statement for the CWG's Integrated Marketplace role and responsibilities that will be presented to the Market Working Group and Markets and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC).

[Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee:](#) The CBASC continued work on the SPP Balancing Authority Operations governing document with plans to complete it in December. The document will identify the operating strategy and SPP Operations department's responsibilities when SPP takes over Balancing Authority functions. The CBA Emergency Operations Task Force has been formed and will begin work in December.

[Economic Studies Working Group:](#) The ESWG approved the scope of the 2011 Integrated Transmission Plan Ten-Year Assessment (ITP10) and continued to finalize the 2010 Integrated Transmission Plan 20-Year Assessment (ITP20) process and study. The 2011 ITP10 scope has been submitted back to the Transmission Working Group for review. Metric weightings for the ITP20 were determined by an ESWG member e-mail vote and will be used in conjunction with the 2010 ITP20 metric results. The group discussed the proper scoring mechanism by which to present the metric results for decision makers in conjunction with the costs and Adjusted Production Cost savings due to each plan. In January the group will begin work on the 2011 ITP10; a meeting schedule for the year is being determined in conjunction with the ITP10 items.

[Generation Working Group:](#) The GWG approved revisions to SPP Criteria regarding Wind Plant and Solar Accreditation Net Capability. The revision to section 12.1.5.3.g will be made and provided to MOPC for approval. The group discussed the Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) Study performed by the System Protection and Control Working Group (SPCWG). The GWG secretary will follow-up with the SPCWG secretary regarding the GWG's comments.

[Market Working Group:](#) The MWG met twice in November, reserving four days for Integrated Marketplace design activities and one day for current business activities. The group reviewed outstanding Integrated Marketplace Protocol items such as the ARR/TCR process, Must Offer requirement, and the allocation of over-collection of losses. The MWG will continue working to resolve outstanding items in December and present Protocols changes to the MOPC in January. Also, in November the MWG received updates from SPP's Market Monitoring, Regulatory, Settlements, and Operations departments and reviewed outstanding Protocol Revision Requests (PRRs) for the EIS Market. PRR 200 (Keep Whole Payments for Out of Merit Energy) was revised and approved.

Regional Tariff Working Group: The RTWG reviewed a PRR related to a Request for Timing Change and approved it with no tariff changes required. A presentation of the Available Transfer Capability Implementation document and Attachment C changes were reviewed; no action was required by the RTWG. One Business Process Revision relating to Transmission Owner Selection Process was reviewed and approved. The group received the second in a series of education sessions; this session focused on the market design elements beyond the Day Ahead Market, which included an overview of Intra-Day Reliability Unit Commitment, Real-Time Balancing Market, Financial Schedules, Scarcity Pricing, and an overview of ARRs and TCRs.

Seams Steering Committee: The SSC held one face-to-face meeting and two conference calls to complete its review of current SPP Seams Agreements and focus on recommendations to SPP staff in three areas: the construction of the monthly seams activity report, cost allocation principles for seams expansion projects, and NERC's/NAESB's efforts with the parallel flow visualization project concerning impacts to improve network and native load calculations via the Interchange Distribution Calculator.

System Protection and Control Working Group: The SPCWG and the UFLS standard drafting team continued making revisions to the fourth draft of the SPP UFLS Regional Standard, and responded to comments received from the third draft. The team will likely post the fourth draft in early December for a 30-day comment period.

Other Meetings

Business Practices Working Group

Transmission Working Group

Integrated Marketplace Update

The Integrated Marketplace program met the November 19 milestone of delivering materials - including functional overviews, business process designs, technical specifications, and white papers - to vendors, who will now prepare estimates for market design and build. Team updates:

- Outage Scheduler team continued to work on Draft Tariff Language – Part 1 which includes Pre-day ahead, Day Ahead, and Operating Day language
- Regulatory and Tariff team continued reviewing protocols for impacts to tariff language
- Technical Architecture team continued training SPP testing resources on Silk, our test management tool, and continued OATI system modeling and Alstom architecture modeling
- Program Management team continues to prepare implementation schedules, staffing plans, and estimating frameworks in preparation for January MOPC and Board meetings

January Meetings

January 6 - Regional Tariff Working Group

January 7 - Seams Steering Committee Meeting

January 10 - Operations Training Working Group Teleconference

January 11/12 - Markets and Operations Policy Committee Meeting

January 12/13 - SPP CBA Steering Committee

January 13 - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

January 17-19 - Market Working Group Meeting

January 18 - Human Resources Committee Meeting

January 19 - Business Practices Working Group Meeting

January 20 - Change Working Group Teleconference

January 24 - Regional State Committee Meeting

January 24 - RE Trustee Meeting

January 25 - Board of Directors-Members Committee Meeting

January 26 - Entergy Regional State Committee

January 31-February 2 - Market Working Group Meeting

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For more information about a group, please visit SPP.org and select that committee on the [Org Groups](#) page. Documents are located in the left column.

Please contact [Emily Pennel](#) in the Communications Department with questions or comments about *The Org Report*.

[SPP Calendar](#)

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