

The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



January 2011

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SPP Announces Changes in Senior Staff

In a [letter to SPP staff](#), President and CEO Nick Brown announced the retirement of Senior Vice President Les Dillahunty, the hiring of Paul Suskie as SPP's General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Regulatory Policy, and other changes to the organization's leadership structure. [Read the news release.](#)

Real-Time Load, Generation Mix Now Available

New real-time data has been added to SPP.org. The [Load/Forecast and Generation Mix page](#) depicts actual and forecast load for the market footprint, along with the fuel types being used for generation. The [LIP Contour Map](#) now includes information about flowgates and load aggregate pricing, available by clicking on the map. Both pages are linked in the Market dropdown menu. Please [contact Webmaster Jon Vinson](#) with questions.

December Meeting Summaries

[Board of Directors-Members Committee:](#) The Board of Directors/Members Committee held its annual review of the organization's effectiveness. This review included results from multiple surveys as well as assessments from each committee and organizational group. [Read the Stakeholder Satisfaction, Regional Entity, and Org Group survey results.](#) A preliminary review of rosters was conducted and will be completed for approval at the January meeting.

[Business Practices Working Group:](#) The BPWG performed the yearly review of its charter and reviewed the Org Group Survey results. Business Practice Revision Request (BPR) 017–Notification to Construct was approved and will be presented to the Markets and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) in January. The group also approved a motion to forward BPR020–Network Resource Interconnection Service and 018–Generator Interconnection Business Practice to other affected working groups for review and comment. Another outstanding issue regarding BPR 019–Designated Transmission Owner will be discussed further at the BPWG's January meeting.

[Corporate Governance Committee:](#) The CGC had two primary agenda items. The committee considered whether any changes to the organization's current voting structures were warranted. Following review of several past votes under different scenarios, the committee determined that no changes were appropriate at this time, but will review the matter periodically. The group reviewed and discussed another iteration of revisions to governing documents to address withdrawal obligations for regional transmission costs; they expect to complete this work in February for presentation at the April Board meeting.

[Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group:](#) The CIPWG met at the offices of the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities. Agenda items included updates from the SPP Regional Entity and agents from the FBI and Department of Homeland Security. Key components of the meeting were updates from the NERC CIP Committee and the development of CIP Version 4 Standards. The group also planned for 2011 meetings and discussed Org Group Survey results.

[Finance Committee:](#) The Finance Committee engaged BKD, LLC to audit SPP's 2010 financial results and discussed:

- 2010 SAS70 audit results (unqualified opinion)
- Cost Effectiveness Action Plan
- Credit Practices Working Group's efforts to prepare for the Integrated Marketplace and comply with a FERC Order on credit reforms
- Settlement Users Group's efforts to prepare for the Integrated Marketplace
- Corporate Center building project – a guaranteed maximum price contract will be within the established budget
- 2011 Corporate Insurance Program – the committee added additional limits for Directors' and Officers'

insurance, increased limits on Fiduciary Liability insurance.

Markets and Operations Policy Committee: The MOPC approved tariff changes requested by the Market Working Group about how the designated default loss providing Balancing Authority is chosen. They also approved a Special Protection Scheme for Crossroads Wind Farm.

Market Working Group: The MWG met twice in December, reserving four days for Integrated Marketplace design activities and one day for current business activities. The group finalized design of the Transmission Congestion Rights Process, changed the Must Offer requirement for the Day-Ahead Market, removed Virtuals from the over-collection of losses revenue calculation in the Marketplace Protocols, and listened to staff's concerns regarding the Marketplace's current Reserve Zone design. The MWG decided to delay further action on regulation cost allocation due to an outstanding FERC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking related to Variable Energy Resources. The group reviewed and made decisions on the Regional State Committee action items for the MWG, and received updates from SPP's Market Monitoring and Regulatory groups. The MWG reviewed outstanding Protocol Revision Requests (PRRs) for the EIS Market and PRR 233 (Designated BA for Self-Provided Losses) was approved with expedited status.

Model Development Working Group: The MDWG held a short meeting to review current action items and the Org Group Survey results. After the official meeting was adjourned, SPP hosted the database update meeting for the MDWG 2011 Series build 1 models.

Operating Reliability Working Group: The ORWG reviewed several Business Practice revisions and several Market Protocol Revisions. The group discussed a proposal to edit the Large Generator Interconnection Agreement to include a requirement that all generation must be able to curtail its output in increments of no larger than 50 MW. This is important for wind resources that are planned to be larger than 50 MW, but have no means to reduce their output except removing the entire resource from service. The ORWG also considered the annual survey results for the SPP Reserve Sharing Group Most Severe Single Contingency and discussed updates to the SPP Blackstart plan.

Operations Training Working Group: The OTWG discussed upcoming vacancies due to term expirations, 2011 Customer Training enrollment numbers, the job task analysis taskforce's work, and final topics for the 2011 System Operations Conferences. The group also reviewed its charter, scheduled its 2011 meetings, and reviewed the Org Group Survey results.

Oversight Committee: The Oversight Committee held its regular quarterly meeting and received activity reports from SPP's Market Monitoring, Internal Audit, and Compliance groups. Stacy Dochoda, General Manager of the SPP Regional Entity, provided an update on recent NERC activities including a new administrative process for addressing less serious violations. The primary action item for the committee was the decision to engage Boston Pacific for consulting services for the Board in 2011.

Regional Tariff Working Group: The RTWG approved: TRR 024, requiring new wind resources to be curtailable in increments of no more than 50 MW; TRR 025, removing the requirement for Transmission Customers to allow remote interrogation of their meters; TRR 027, aligning Attachment C with the way current processes actually work; and TRR 035, creating a formulaic process for updating rates by Transmission Owners that have formula rates. The group also approved PRRs 200 and 233.

Seams Steering Committee: The SSC held a conference call with CAWG members to finalize the *Cost Allocation Principles for Seams Transmission Expansion Projects* draft and discuss the CAWG's development of an RFP to seek vendor input for seams agreement development. The SSC and the CAWG agreed to review the current draft at their respective January meetings and provide an update at the January MOPC meeting. The SSC also discussed seams projects' classification, applicability, designation criteria, Tariff compatibility, models and modeling assumptions, metrics, criteria, and cost allocation.

Strategic Planning Committee: The SPC considered policy recommendations related to regionally funded transmission projects. The Regional State Committee recently adopted three recommendations for SPP to review and consider: 1) the best manner to address significant cost increases and/or overruns of transmission projects that are regionally funded, 2) the novation process, and 3) design and construction standards for 200 KV+ transmission projects that are regionally funded.

Staff presented proposals to address these RSC recommendations, including increasing transparency of future proposed novations and increasing communication with state commissioners and their staff regarding regional planning and cost allocation processes, especially transmission project cost estimates. A number of questions were framed for further policy developments.

System Protection and Control Working Group: The SPCWG and the Under Frequency Load Shedding (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 posted the fourth draft on December 8 for a 30-day comment period ending January 7. The team will then decide if a fifth draft is necessary or whether the standard is ready for an open vote.

Transmission Working Group: The TWG reviewed and approved SPP's 2010 TPL Compliance work and the 2011 ITP10 scope. The group also endorsed the 2010 SPP Transmission Expansion Plan, which will be up for

approval at the MOPC and Board meetings.

Integrated Marketplace Update

- The market design team received approval of the final Market Protocols from the MWG and will present them at the MOPC's January meeting.
- Team leaders conducted lessons learned and root cause analysis sessions to determine the best process for completing vendor/software requirements by March 31, 2011. They are also working with subject matter experts and vendors to coordinate a "To-Be Market Summit", which is needed to validate the business vision with vendor capability.
- The program management team continues to refine implementation schedules, staffing plans, and estimates in preparation for the January MOPC and Board meetings.

Other Meetings

[Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee](#)

[Cost Allocation Working Group](#)

[Economic Studies Working Group](#)

January Meetings

January 5 - CAWG conference call

January 5 - RE Trustee Call

January 6 - Regional Tariff Working Group

January 7 - Seams Steering Committee Meeting

January 7 - Generation Working Group Net Conference

January 10 - Operations Training Working Group Teleconference

January 10 - SPCWG Net Conference

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](#)

[The Org Report Back Issues](#)

[SPP Governing Documents](#)