

The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



March 2011

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Benefits of Entergy Joining SPP Include \$1.3 Billion Net Savings

SPP and Entergy have had decades of successful collaboration, and SPP has extensive experience in operating Entergy's system in real-time and planning for its future needs. In addition to the estimated \$1.3 billion in net benefits if Entergy joined the SPP Regional Transmission Organization, many other operational efficiencies and savings would be achieved. [Download a three-page fact sheet](#) to read more.

February Meeting Summaries

Change Working Group: The CWG discussed the status of member-impacting projects. The data application programming interface that has been in design and development to meet PRR131 requirements and provide for future data growth has been redesigned to allow for flexible member development and testing. SPP will continue developing the server-side solution with those that voted to proceed on the alternate schedule presented to the CWG, and will allow other members to coordinate development and testing on their own timelines. The EIS Market Fall Patch implementation was approved for February 22, successfully implementing PRR148-Issue VRL Message, PRR153–Quick Start Status, PRR194–Breakout of Manual Status, and PRR213–Block VRL for Operational Constraints. Assessment of member impact continues for Order 729 and 676E load posting requirements and the withdrawal of Omaha Public Power District. SPP and Integrated Marketplace program staff are working to develop program-level information for the members to be presented at the March 24 conference call.

Corporate Governance Committee: The CGC held its first quarter meeting and discussed nominations for expiring terms for Directors, Trustees, and the Members Committee. Josh Martin and Larry Altenbaumer will be recommended for election to new three-year terms on the Board of Directors starting January 1, 2012; Gerry Burrows will be recommended for election to a new three-year term for the Regional Entity Trustees. The Committee will further address the Members Committee positions at their September meeting. In addition, the group developed revisions to SPP's governing documents to address withdrawal from the organization and its impact on transmission cost allocation. The committee will meet again in July in conjunction with the Board of Directors/Members Committee meeting.

Credit Practices Working Group: The CPWG approved language to comply with FERC Order 741. Changes were necessary to the Credit Policy's sections on cure period and material adverse change, and sections were added specifying minimum criteria for market participation. The CPWG was asked to consider the release from financial liability of customers that transfer ownership of transmission service to another party. Credit Policy language is being drafted stating under what circumstances such a release would be granted.

Economic Studies Working Group: The group met twice in February and identified important inputs, work schedules, and coordination activities that are necessary in the 2011 Integrated Transmission Planning (ITP) process. To provide greater focus in the ITP10 study, the group identified two futures with direction from the Strategic Planning Committee. The ESWG began developing economic sensitivities that will clarify uncertain input variables. Staff presented quality control measures to the group, and attention was given to in-depth coordination with the Transmission Working Group.

Generation Working Group: The GWG and System Protection and Control Working Group (SPCWG) are working on a data request to be sent to generator owners to obtain additional data for the SPCWG's SPP Under Frequency Load Shedding Study.

Market Working Group: The MWG met twice in February, once via conference call and once in Dallas. In response to a MOPC action item, the MWG reviewed a presentation comparing the SPP Integrated Marketplace design to other RTO/ISO markets. The group reviewed Boston Pacific's concerns about the Integrated Marketplace and discussed each topic to determine a response or decision to alter the design. The MWG also received updates from SPP's Operations, Market Monitoring, and Regulatory departments.

Operations Training Working Group: Due to term expirations, the OTWG has two vacancies for voting membership and is accepting nominations to be discussed at the March 31 meeting. SPP's Customer Training department is finalizing content for the upcoming System Operations Conferences. The OTWG will conduct its strategic planning session at its next meeting. Job Task Analysis education continues; Conrad Gottfredson is conducting a three-part Rapid Task Analysis online course for trainers throughout the SPP region and at other ISOs/RTOs.

Regional Tariff Working Group: The RTWG heard a presentation from the Crediting Process Task Force on implementation of Attachment Z2 of the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff, including an example of how reservations would be stacked. The group also reviewed the Special Protection Scheme Guidelines and received an update on tariff development for the Integrated Marketplace. The RTWG is considering changing the way costs are allocated when a customer withdraws from an Aggregate Study.

Seams Steering Committee: The Arkansas Public Service Commission provided an update on the RFP relating to cost allocation principles for seams transmission expansion projects. SPP staff gave a presentation on recent communications with the Midwest ISO and PJM about activities with the parallel flow project and the Congestion Management Process (CMP) Task Force. Staff also reported on a NERC pilot project on parallel flow and CMP actions; results are expected by mid-2012. SPP staff presented a report on current discussions with the North American Energy Standards Board Business Practices Subcommittee to develop a single methodology for market and non-market business processes.

SPP's Operations department has formed a task force to address four concerns: 1. Investigating RTO Tariffs on what loads can be served with firm service by a Designated Network Resource (DNR); 2. Review MISO/PJM FERC filing for consolidation of Balancing Authorities to grant DNR rights of the resources to loads; 3. Review and study wind farm analysis by MISO to allow firm rights of the wind farms to all MISO market loads; and 4. Required changes to SPP tariff to grant current DNRs firm rights to all loads in the market footprint.

Staff led a discussion on SPP's response to MISO/Entergy integration activities.

System Protection and Control Working Group: Heidt Melson was appointed the new Chairman, and Louis Guidry the new Vice-Chairman. NERC has asked the regions to use a new reporting template for misoperations data; the new template will be used beginning with the 2011 first quarter submittal. The SPCWG will continue to analyze the data to look for specific trends or issues. The SPCWG approved KCPL's request for a disturbance monitoring equipment waiver at the West Gardner substation.

Transmission Working Group: The TWG discussed the possibility of changing the models used for SPP TPL compliance studies. The group was updated on the 2010 ITP10 and the Tres Amigas HVDC interconnection request.

Integrated Marketplace Update

Based on January vendor summits and ensuing follow-up, SPP and its vendors now share a common vision for Integrated Marketplace systems. Action items required for vendors to produce statements of work are being addressed.

- Requirements team continued to refine its work plan based on a schedule provided by, and received approval on 8 of 25 critical vendor-impacting requirements deliverables (against a plan of 14)
- CBA/Outage Scheduler team began installation of CROW ITE at SPP
- Subject matter experts from SPP's Credit Management, IT, and Market Design departments held a series of meetings with an Accenture risk/credit management consultant who has experience at several RTOs/ISOs. The group investigated whether SPP's vision of credit and risk management would require changes to the Integrated Marketplace design. They completed their initial review of credit policies, procedures, FERC rulings, and IT systems; findings will be presented to SPP program leadership the week of March 7.
- Program management team continued driving the completion of critical path deliverables for the MWG, MOPC, and Board of Directors as well as vendor statements of work, implementation schedules, and estimates in preparation for the April Board of Directors meeting
- Business Process Design team received approval on 41 of 44 business process design deliverables (against a plan of 44)

Other Meetings

Cost Allocation Working Group

March Meetings

March 1/2 - TWG/ESWG Joint Meeting

March 2 - Consolidated Balancing Authority Emergency Operations Task Force

March 3 - SPP Consolidated Balancing Authority Teleconference
March 7 - OTWG Teleconference
March 8/9 - Market Working Group Meeting
March 9/10 - Business Practices Working Group Meeting
March 10 - Settlement User Group WebEx/Teleconference
March 10 - Seams Steering Committee Teleconference
March 10 - SPCWG Net Conference
March 14/15 - Market Working Group Net Conference
March 15 - Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group Meeting
March 15 - Consolidated Balancing Authority Emergency Operations Task Force
March 17 - ORWG Conference Call
March 17/18 - Entergy Regional State Committee
March 21-23 - Market Working Group Meeting
March 24 - Change Working Group Teleconference
March 25 - SPP Consolidated Balancing Authority Teleconference
March 28 - Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
March 28-31 - SPP System Operations Conference
March 28/ 29 - SPP Regional Entity Spring Workshop
March 29 - CAWG Meeting
March 30 - MWG-RTWG Meeting
March 30 - 2011 Quarterly Compliance Forum
March 31 - Regional Tariff Working Group
March 31 - OTWG Face-to-Face 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](#)