

The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



September 2011

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Omaha Public Power District Reaffirms Status as SPP Member

The [Omaha Public Power District \(OPPD\)](#) and SPP announced August 10 that OPPD would continue its status as a transmission-owning member of SPP. The decision keeps OPPD in the same status in which it joined SPP in April 2009. "We believe that being a transmission-owning member of SPP will provide our customer owners with many benefits," said OPPD President and CEO W. Gary Gates. "Having a stronger transmission system will increase reliability and will provide a broader access to energy markets."

SPP President and CEO Nick Brown said, "We are pleased OPPD continues to see the value of SPP membership and the SPP stakeholder process, and we will certainly do our part to live up to OPPD's expectations. Our regional electric grid will benefit from OPPD's continued participation in our wholesale energy and transmission service markets, transmission planning processes, and energy reserve sharing group." [Read the full release](#) on SPP.org.

August Meeting Summaries

[Business Practices Working Group](#): The BPWG reviewed Business Practice Revision Request (BPR) 018 – Generation Interconnection Procedures and BPR 024 – Revision to Delayed Offering Process, but took no action on either. The BPRs were sent to the Regional Tariff Working Group for review and comment.

[Change Working Group](#): The CWG met in Dallas to organize itself around the Integrated Marketplace program. Member companies have begun coordinating project staffing, and SPP has requested liaisons from members for member-facing program workstreams. SPP staff, via a survey distributed in late August, will measure potential market participants' program engagement by reporting on activities suggested for late 2011: determination of participation in the Marketplace, representation and engagement in the CWG, program alignment, milestone assessment and gap analysis, and participation in information sessions and early training. The CWG will continue to meet monthly; it will meet November 17-18 in Dallas, following a vendor trade show November 16.

[Credit Practices Working Group](#): The CPWG met on August 3 and approved tariff language relieving sellers' financial responsibility when reassigning transmission service to another SPP customer. The group also approved Transmission Congestion Rights (TCR) Hold and Auction credit-exposure calculations and discussed credit rules for the Integrated Marketplace. The CPWG met August 10 and reviewed proposals for TCR offer and Secondary Market credit exposure calculations and continued its discussion of credit rules for the Marketplace. The CPWG voted to accept the TCR and Secondary Market credit-exposure calculations on August 17 and was presented with a Day-Ahead credit-exposure calculation for consideration. The group reviewed proposed tariff language for the Virtual Market credit exposure calculation on August 24. The CPWG intends to vote on this language at its next meeting.

[Economic Studies Working Group](#): The ESWG met in early August and identified metrics that will be used in the 2011 Integrated Transmission Planning (ITP) process and selected – pending formal approval – four sensitivities for use with the Business as Usual future and six sensitivities for use with the EPA Rules with Additional Wind future. The group provided additional feedback on information shared at the July Planning Summit and forwarded a resource-plan change request to the Transmission Working Group. The ESWG also briefly discussed the Forty-Year financial analysis and will reapply themselves to this item in the coming weeks.

[Market Working Group](#): The MWG met in Dallas to review current business and the Integrated Marketplace's next steps. The group received updates from SPP's Market Monitoring, Operations, and Regulatory groups, and reviewed a presentation on Availability Management. The MWG approved Marketplace Protocol Revision Request (MPRR) 5 (Removal of 4 Hour Requirement for ID-RUC) and MPRR 6 (Adjustments to Normal Operating Limits). The MWG will continue coordinating joint meetings with other working groups in preparation for the Marketplace's implementation.

[Model Development Working Group](#): The MDWG approved the 2012 Series Powerflow, Dynamics, and Short Circuit model set and schedule, the latter by an email vote following their August 2 meeting. The group

discussed moving to PSS/E version 32 for the 2012 Series models and the current model improvement requests being lead by NERC, and updated the MDWG Procedure Manuals.

Operating Reliability Working Group: The ORWG reviewed draft generation-interconnection business practices for the Business Practices Working Group and draft protocol revisions regarding FERC Order 719 and Market Monitoring for the Market Working Group, and discussed reliability issues. The group discussed Reserve Sharing Group issues and clarifications on Other Extreme Conditions and Energy Emergency Alerts, and was updated on the upcoming replacement Outage Scheduler project, scheduled to go live in late September. The ORWG also approved a new Appendix 12 for Criteria regarding additional detail and methodologies for submitting generation and transmission outages. It will next meet September 21-22 at Xcel Energy's offices in Denver.

Operations Training Working Group: The OTWG discussed feedback from the mid-year Customer Training Program Evaluation. Dates for the 2012 System Operations Conferences were determined as follows: March 26-29 in Little Rock, AR; April 23-26 in Lafayette, LA; September 24-27 in Omaha, NE; and October 22-25 in Kansas City, MO. Misty Revenew updated the group on the Integrated Marketplace Participant Training Task Force. The group also discussed the CROW outage scheduler's upcoming rollout and the performance support available to members. The OTWG will discuss the tentative 2012 Customer Training calendar at its [September 12 meeting](#).

Regional Entity Trustees: **[EDITOR'S NOTE:** The August Org Report incorrectly listed SPP's Jonathan Hayes as an alternate to the NERC Transmission Issues Subcommittee (TIS). The RE Trustees approved Hayes' appointment as a full representative to the TIS in July.]

Regional Tariff Working Group: The RTWG began its review of proposed tariff language for the Integrated Marketplace on August 24 with a day-long discussion of Attachment AE, Sections 1-6. The group accepted Business Practice Revisions (BPR) forwarded by the Business Practices Working Group establishing a new business practice on the study process and the integration of Network Resource Interconnection Service facilities into the SPP Transmission System (BPR 020), and revising Business Practice 4.4 to allow dynamic and pseudo-tie type e-tags to be submitted with a generated and delivered capacity of 0 MW (BPR 023). The RTWG accepted a Protocol Revision Request (PRR) related to FERC Order 719's requirements for market monitoring as having no tariff implications (PRR 225). The group also approved proposed tariff language, as modified, providing, upon request, a release of a transmission service reseller's obligations under the relevant SPP transmission service agreement for service fully assigned by the reseller to another eligible and creditworthy transmission service customer (Tariff Revision Request 047). Additionally, the RTWG approved proposed revisions to SPP tariff grandfathering and rate provisions to recognize Southwestern Public Service Company and Public Service Company of Colorado's merger commitments, subject to Schedule 11 (TRR 048)'s review. The RTWG also responded to a request for interpretation of "element" as used in Attachment J, Section III (TRR 050).

Seams Steering Committee: The SSC reviewed staff's proposal on evaluating potential seams projects within the Integrated Transmission Planning process's construct, providing several suggestions that will be used to finalize the proposal. The committee discussed the recently released FERC Order 1000 and its implications on SPP's seams activities. The Seams Cost Allocation Task Force updated the SSC on its activities. The Task Force has hired the Brattle Group as a consultant to help develop best-practice principles for cost allocations of seams-oriented projects that benefit multiple entities. The Brattle Group is currently reviewing several potential seams projects for potential use as case studies to help develop these principles; the initial draft of findings is scheduled to be presented at the Regional State Committee's October meeting.

System Protection and Control Working Group: The SPCWG met with the Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) Standard Drafting Team (SDT) and reviewed comments on the sixth draft of the SPP UFLS Regional Standard. The SDT has decided to make a few changes to the regional standard, and will post the standard for another ballot period in the upcoming months.

Transmission Working Group: The TWG heard an update on the 2011 Integrated Transmission Planning 10-Year and Near-Term Assessments' progress, discussed the Ensign Wind Farm Special Protection System, and continued discussing improvements for SPP's TPL assessment. The TWG also examined the approved Project Cost Task Force's white paper and Design Criteria Guidelines.

Integrated Marketplace Update

- The program remains on track to meet its March 1, 2014 implementation date. Staff continues to evaluate scope changes and other alternatives to lower the program's overall schedule risk and cost, and is finalizing a plan to review technical-interface designs.
- The program continues to manage to its \$105M capital budget commitment. Current budget projection is \$108.6 million, but the program continues to look at ways to cut costs below the target.
- The Program Management Office (PMO) has begun posting a monthly scorecard for the SPP Board of Directors. The scorecard, [also available for public view](#), will be issued on the 15th of each month.

- The Regulatory & Tariff workstream has begun its joint review with the Regional Tariff Working Group of the draft Open Access Transmission Tariff revisions (with the exception of credit policy and provisions relevant to the Consolidated Balancing Authority). The team is scheduled to complete the tariff's review in November, and take it before the Market and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) for a December vote.
- The Readiness workstream, working with the Change Working Group, is surveying potential Marketplace participants to gather baseline information as part of the program's Readiness effort. The survey will help the Readiness team formulate a strategy for collecting this information moving forward, and determine how quickly potential participants are preparing themselves. The results will be presented to the MOPC in October.
- The PMO has created a Solutions Architect team and a Decision Task Force to reach quick and effective decisions. The Solutions Architect team will facilitate and manage technically focused decisions that impact multiple program areas; the Decision Task Force will drive technical-issue decision making and compliance.

Other Meetings

[Cost Allocation Working Group](#)

[Regional State Committee](#)

[Strategic Planning Committee](#)

September Meetings

September 1 – Corporate Governance Committee

September 1 – Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee

September 12 – Market Working Group

September 12 – Seams Steering Committee

September 12 – Operations Training Working Group

September 15 – Project Cost Working Group

September 16 – Market Working Group

September 19-21 – Market Working Group

September 20 – Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group

September 21-22 – SPP Fall Planning Summit

September 21-22 – Operating Reliability Working Group

September 22 – Change Working Group

September 26-29 – SPP System Operations Conference

September 26 – Economic Studies Working Group

September 28 – Finance Committee

September 28 – Cost Allocation Working Group

September 28 – Business Practices Working Group

September 29 – Oversight Committee

September 29 – Operations Training Working Group

September 29-30 – Regional Tariff Working Group

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 [Tom Kleckner](#) in the Communications Department with questions or comments about *The Org Report*.

[SPP Calendar](#)

[The Org Report Back Issues](#)

[SPP Governing Documents](#)

