SPP Outage Scheduler Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How do I register for CROW Outage Scheduling Training?**
   a. The Southwest Power Pool Customer Training department is pleased to announce availability of the "Outage Coordination (CROW) Self-Study". This course is available via the SPP Learning Center (LMS) and is a self-study version of our live training, "Net Conference – Outage Coordination (CROW)." Upon successful completion of the course (including a post-assessment), NERC certified operators will be awarded NERC Continuing Education Hours. To locate and register for the "Outage Coordination (CROW) Self-Study":
      i. • Sign onto the SPP Learning Center.
      ii. • In the Search box located in the upper right corner, type, "(CROW)" and press Enter.
      iii. • Scroll down and click the title of the self-study course.
      iv. • A new window will open showing the course description.
      v. • Click the Request button.
      vi. • You will receive a registration email with instructions and helpful hints.

      For specific training needs contact SPP Outage coordination team at OutageCoordination@spp.org.

2. **How do I obtain access to the CROW Outage Scheduler?**
   a. Access to the CROW Outage Scheduler will be via OATI Digital Certificate Authorization. The OATI digital certificate will be required to obtain access. Your company LSA (Local Security Administrator) will request appropriate access for you with SPP. Go to http://www.spp.org/section.asp?pageID=156 for further instructions and access request forms.

3. **I am a Transmission Operator (TOP) within a larger Balancing Authority. May I submit my own outages to CROW rather than depending on the BA to do it for me?**
   a. Yes. CROW will allow varying levels of granularity within companies and NERC registered entities. Individual Generator Operators (GOP's) within a BA or TOP may also be configured to provide outage requests independent of other entities within the larger entity. SPP will work with each user to determine the appropriate access and review authority to preserve code of conduct integrity.

4. **When can I start submitting my daily Load and Capability Data (or Hourly Load or Load Forecast, etc.) into CROW rather than OPS1?**
   a. Whoa there partner. You have a slight misunderstanding of the CROW vs. OPS1 relationship. OPS1 is a portal that provides access to several different applications. CROW simply replaces the TRANS and GEN outage submission functionality in OPS1. All other valid applications on OPS1 such as CPS, Hourly Load, Load Forecast, Load and Capability, Reports, etc. are not impacted nor replaced by the CROW Outage Scheduler.

5. **Will there be an API that will allow my company outage submission tool to upload outages directly into the CROW Outage Scheduler at SPP?**
   a. Yes. CROW does come with an API that allows this functionality. The API is considered a "feature" of the tool. Due to complexity of testing various member interfaces with the API, the API may not be fully functional at the time of go-live. Further communication on API functionality will be through the SPP Change Working Group (CWG).

6. **What are "Outage Priorites"?**
   a. An outage priority is used to identify the timing requirements and queue order of competing outages. This concept is new compared to the old SPP OPS1 outage scheduler. The new various Transmission Outage Request Priorities are: Planned, Discretionary, Opportunity, Operational, Urgent, Emergency, and Forced. Obviously a Forced priority outage will take precedence over a Planned priority outage. For Generation, there are Planned, Urgent, Emergency, and Forced outages. There are varying levels of timing requirements associated with each priority also. For example, timing requirements only allow a Forced outage to be submitted up to 1 hour in advance. You can't submit a Forced outage starting next week just like you can't submit a Planned outage starting 2 hours from now. The business rules, definitions, and timing requirements of the priorities are captured in the SPP Outage Coordination Methodology found in SPP's Operating Criteria as OP-2.

7. **We just have crews working in a substation. No switching will be done and no outages. Do I need to submit anything to the RC?**
   a. Yes. You can submit an Informational (INF) outage request to the RC. This won't result in an outage being sent to NERC SDX or to SPP's EMS, but it does provide notice to the RC that there could be a somewhat higher risk to equipment in that station.

8. **What are Outage Equipment Request Types?**
   a. These are attributes of each distinct outage request that identify the type of action that will occur during the outage. The Outage Request Types for Transmission are: Out of Service, Normally Open, Informational, Hot Line Work, and General System Protection. Some of these outage request types result in a piece of equipment being opened or energized. Other types do not and are simply notifications. The definitions of the request types are captured in the SPP Outage Coordination Methodology found in SPP's Operating Criteria as OP-2.

9. **I've had my summer peaker unit mothballed all winter with a minimum recall time of 2 weeks. We have it ready to go again this summer with startup capability in 15 minutes. Since it is still offline and I am only counting on it for reserve capacity, what should I do with my outage?**
   a. Assuming the original outage is still in effect with a recall time of 2 weeks, you should submit an outage change request to update the recall time to 15 minutes.

10. **What happened to the old generation status types in OPS1 such as "cold start (CS)" and "quick start (QS)"?**

    a. The CROW Outage Scheduler doesn't require these types of statuses. The downstream systems from the Outage Scheduler would only ever translate these outage types into out of service anyway. The Recall Time property required on each outage provides better information to the RC than the old cold start or quick start status types.

11. **How do CROW outages affect my Day-Ahead Offer Parameters?**

    a. Day-Ahead Market studies rely on accurate resource parameters to account for unit availability. In order to avoid Market Participants being committed too soon or too late as a result of an Outage when they Day-Ahead Market study is executed, please follow the correct action below:

        i. For an **outage ending prior to the DA Market study period**, MPs need to adjust their Cold Start-Up Time for appropriate commitment. The Markets UI Commitment Status should be set to Market, Reliability, or Self upon completion of the CROW Outage.

        ii. For an **outage ending during to the DA Market study period**, MPs need to adjust their Markets UI Commitment Status to Outage to account for the Resource's Off-to-Min time. The Commitment Status should be updated to Market, Reliability, or Self for the first interval the Resource would be available for commitment.

12. **How is the non-continuous outage utilized?**

    a. A non-continuous outage gives you the ability to submit outage an element or elements with multiple start and end times over a specified time frame.

        i. Example 1: A single element needs to be taken out of service for 3 days but it will only be out of service for 4 hours a day. In this case, non-continuous would have to be selected on the 'Request Summary' tab and 2 additional profiles will need to be added (totaling 3) on the 'Request Detail/Approval' tab. The 'Planned Start' and 'Planned End' will have to be modified to reflect the outages times for each day.

        ii. Example 2: Multiple lines are needed to be taken out of service over a specified time frame. However, some lines will return to service in the evenings and others will not. In this case multiple profiles will need to be added as well. To represent the line being returned to service, uncheck the box by the desired line. These profiles will need to be back-to-back time wise and cannot overlap.

    b. The outage will have to be 'Implemented' and 'Completed' for every outage profile that is created.