

# The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



January 2012

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## December Meeting Summaries

**Board of Directors/Members Committee:** The Board of Directors/Members Committee conducted its annual organizational effectiveness review during its December meeting. The group considered several annual surveys and heard reports on corporate metrics, the controls audit, and determination of member value. The review and discussions were productive and will provide a good foundation for future planning.

**Business Practices Working Group:** The BPWG reviewed Business Practice Revision Request (BPR) 025 – Clarification of Transmission Service Waiver Request to help clarify SPP Tariff Attachment J sections that may be considered vague or ambiguous. The BPWG also determined its approach to improving the Aggregate Transmission Service and Generation Interconnection study processes. The BPWG will conduct two teleconferences – one for the Generation Interconnection Study, the second for the Aggregate Transmission Service Study – that will be open forums for the studies' participants to voice their issues and concerns with the processes. The BPWG will schedule additional workshops to address those issues.

**Change Working Group:** The CWG has set its 2012 meeting calendar, scheduling its first-quarter meetings in downtown Dallas at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The group will assess the need and locations for its second-quarter meetings during the February meeting.

**Corporate Governance Committee:** The Corporate Governance Committee met to discuss revisions to SPP's governing documents addressing the impact of withdrawal from the organization on regional transmission expansion costs. The committee plans to review the current proposal at the January series of meetings and present a final recommendation at the April meetings. The committee also filled two vacancies on SPP committees: Carl Huslig of ITC Great Plains was appointed to the Finance Committee and Omaha Public Power District's Jon Hansen was appointed to the Strategic Planning Committee.

**Cost Allocation Working Group:** The CAWG acted on a request from the Project Cost Working Group to circulate a Request for Information (RFI) that will be sent to Transmission Owners in each respective state. The RFI will help compile a list of applicable statutes or requirements in each state relating to environmental impact zones or other requirements that transmission developers may encounter. The CAWG was also updated on the distribution of costs for Hubs, the timing of Balanced Portfolio Transfers, and other working group activities.

**Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group:** The CIPWG met for a presentation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security for overview on the Version 5 Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) standards, and a discussion of the recent NERC Grid Security Exercise (GridEx). The group also heard from the NERC CIP Committee and discussed Incident Response within the SPP footprint.

**Economic Studies Working Group:** The ESWG met jointly with the Transmission Working Group to review the 2012 Integrated Transmission Planning (ITP)10 report, and met separately to endorse a recommendation regarding the group's concerns about the impact of forthcoming Environmental Protection Agency regulations. The recommendation will be presented to the Strategic Policy Committee. A Regional Allocation Task Force (RARTF) request for language review concerning benefit calculation was reviewed and provided back to the RARTF.

**Finance Committee:** The committee discussed the opportunity to establish transaction fees for Virtual and Transmission Congestion Rights trades in the Integrated Marketplace, and approving a recommendation authorizing the issuance of up to \$125 million in term financing to fund SPP's capital expenditure program through 2014. The committee also received the 2011 SSAE (Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements) 16 audit report from Price Waterhouse Coopers, which included an unqualified opinion.

**Markets and Operations Policy Committee:** The MOPC met in Dallas to review and approve the Tariff language necessary to implement the Integrated Marketplace, doing so with a minimum of discussion.

**Market Working Group:** The MWG reviewed SPP staff's updated recommendation for the configuration of Reserve Zones, and will continue to do so every six months. The MWG also reviewed a presentation on how regulation is cleared and deployed within the Marketplace's various processes. Three Marketplace Protocol

Revision Requests were approved and have been sent to other working groups for review. The protocol language is currently in [version 6.0](#).

**Operations Training Working Group:** The OTWG met by teleconference and discussed the possibility of adding a fifth System Operations Conference (SOC) to the 2012 training calendar to accommodate the current waitlists. The group also discussed the 2012 SOC's theme and topics. Misty Revenew (Westar Energy) and Mike Hood (Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation) were recommended to continue their service to the OTWG in second terms as OTWG voting members.

**Oversight Committee:** During its regular quarterly meeting, the committee reviewed activity reports and finalized plans to engage Boston Pacific for 2012 consulting services. Boston Pacific will prepare a "Looking Forward Report" to support the organization in its planning. This report will be presented to the Board of Directors/Members Committee in April, along with the Annual State of the Market Report.

**Regional Tariff Working Group:** The RTWG considered language to change the exit costs for Aggregate Studies and the rates for Through-and-Out Transmission Service. The group also discussed the Indemnification Language in Attachment AN for the Integrated Marketplace. All items were tabled for the RTWG's first January meeting.

**Transmission Working Group:** The TWG reviewed and approved the NERC's 2011 Transmission Planning compliance reports and endorsed the 2012 Integrated Transmission Planning Near-Term Assessment (ITPNT) Report and the 2012 ITP10 Report. The group further developed the scope for the 2013 ITPNT, and will flesh out the scope through early 2012.

## Integrated Marketplace Update

- The MOPC approved the [draft Open Access Transmission Tariff revisions](#) during a special meeting December 6. The Tariff language now goes before the SPP Board of Directors/Members Committee January 31 for its approval. SPP will file the approved Tariff revisions with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission February 29.
- The Transmission Congestion Rights (TCR) workstream begins the first phase of the TCR Mock Auction with the validation of Auction Revenue Rights (ARRs) January 16. The auction's first phase currently includes 53 market participants and will run through April 13. The TCR Mock Auction is the first major interaction between SPP's stakeholders and the Integrated Marketplace. A required phase runs April 2-August 31.
- The program has begun posting a monthly [Q&A document](#) on the Marketplace's website. The current version features 77 questions submitted from market participants, and the program's responses.
- The Integrated Marketplace protocols have been updated to [version 6.0](#).

## Other Meetings

### Model Development Working Group

## January Meetings

January 4 – Market Working Group

January 5 – Economic Studies Working Group

January 5 – Regional Tariff Working Group

January 5 – Transmission Working Group

January 9 – Operations Training Working Group

January 9 – Seams Steering Committee Teleconference

January 10 – Business Practices Working Group

January 10 – Project Cost Working Group

January 11 – Cost Allocation Working Group

January 12 – Business Practices Working Group

January 12 – Economic Studies Working Group

January 12-13 – Operating Reliability Working Group

January 17-18 – Markets and Operations Policy Committee

January 19 – SPP Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee

- January 19 – Strategic Planning Committee
- January 23 – Business Practices Working Group
- January 23 – Human Resources Committee
- January 24-25 – Market Working Group
- January 25-26 – Change Working Group
- January 26 – E-RSC Working Group & Stakeholders Meeting
- January 26 – Regional Tariff Working Group
- January 30 – Regional Entity Trustees
- January 30 – Regional State Committee
- January 31 – Board of Directors-Members Committee

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For more information about a group, please visit [SPP.org](http://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*.

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