

The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



March 2012

[Integrated Marketplace Update](#)
[February Meeting Summaries](#)
[Other Meetings](#)
[March Meetings](#)

SPP Completes FERC Filing of Tariff Revisions for Integrated Marketplace

SPP filed revisions to its Open Access Transmission Tariff with the FERC on February 29, completing a major milestone in the Integrated Marketplace's implementation. The [Tariff revisions](#) will provide the regulatory framework for the Marketplace's operations. SPP President and CEO Nick Brown said, "The filing is the result of an extremely productive and collaborative effort between SPP and our stakeholders." [Read more in the full release.](#)

February Meeting Summaries

[Business Practices Working Group:](#) The BPWG discussed Business Practice Revision (BPR) 018 – Guideline for Clarifying Application of the SPP Generator Interconnection Procedures and gathered questions for a survey to improve the Generation Interconnection Study and Aggregate Transmission Service Study processes. The BPWG then approved four BPR requests: BPR 018, BPR 028, BPR 029, and BPR 030. BPR 027, approved at a previous meeting, was withdrawn.

[Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee:](#) The CBASC held several meetings with SPP Compliance and Regulatory to discuss the options available to the CBA and the legacy Balancing Authorities (BA) for NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corp.) registration. Additional discussions continue with a subset of CBASC members, discussing the specifics around the NERC requirements that may need additional consideration for legal delegation (32 requirements are currently being reviewed for compliance issues). The CBASC and Compliance are both working to get the final delegation of duties between the legacy BA and the SPP CBA documented as soon as possible. The committee will review the results during its March meeting, and present them to the Market and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) in April. A [draft of the Emergency Operations Plan](#) has been posted for review, and the Emergency Operations Procedures are currently being drafted. The committee also discussed the need for a meeting between CBASC members and the SPP Regional Entity, scheduled for March 15.

[Cost Allocation Working Group:](#) The CAWG continued to focus on Hub and Spoke cost-recovery methodologies. The group also heard presentations on Integrated Transmission Planning (ITP) Rate Impacts and the Organizational Effectiveness Survey results, and updates from the Seams Steering Committee and seven other working groups and task forces.

[Economic Studies Working Group:](#) The ESWG focused on two primary initiatives: forming a task force addressing the monetization of benefit metrics for the Regional Cost Allocation Review, and scoping the 2013 ITP 20-Year Assessment (ITP20). The group approved the high-level variables for use in the joint ITP20 "business-as-usual" future being coordinated with the Midwest ISO, and provided direction and comments for the 2013 ITP20 draft scope's continued development.

[Market Working Group:](#) The MWG met three times in February, twice on conference calls, approving 15 Marketplace Protocol Revision Requests (MPRRs) with the completion of software design. The MWG will continue to coordinate efforts with other working groups in preparation for the Integrated Marketplace's implementation. The Marketplace protocols are currently in [version 8.0](#).

[Model Development Working Group:](#) The MDWG welcomed the Grand River Dam Authority's Joe Fultz as its new chairman, and thanked previous chair Scott Rainbolt of AEP for his four years of service. A vice-chair will be selected during the group's May meeting. The MDWG also discussed proposals for the 2013 Series Model Building Schedule, which will be drafted by SPP staff and presented for a vote in May.

[Operating Reliability Working Group:](#) The ORWG reviewed and approved 12 MPRRs for the MWG, and discussed updates to the Black Start Capability and Restoration Plans. Group members and staff presented thoughts on how the receipt of Energy Imbalance Service energy plays into the calculation of sufficiency towards serving firm load and carrying reserves; this discussion may eventually turn into additional Criteria language. The ORWG also proposed additional data requirements for Variable Energy Resources to support improved forecasting and the Integrated Marketplace. These additional data points are being provided to the Change

Working Group (CWG) for its review and feedback on the submission method.

Operations Training Working Group: The OTWG discussed the wait lists for this year's System Operations Conferences (SOC) and VPN password-expiration issues, and reviewed the results of Integrated Marketplace-related training. A total of 48 persons are waitlisted for SPP's five 2012 SOCs, some for multiple conferences. VPN passwords are limited to 90 days, as per SPP policy and CIP password requirements. SPP's [John Gunter](#) can help users with password and user-access issues.

Project Cost Working Group: The PCWG continued work on a revision to the Notification to Construct (NTC) business practice (BPR-027), as directed by the MOPC and addressing concerns expressed by other working groups related to the issuance of NTCs with Conditions (NTC-Cs). The group decided the "legacy" NTC business practice should continue to apply to NTCs issued prior to Jan. 1, 2012, and the revised business practice would apply to NTCs issued Jan. 1, 2012 and later. The PCWG continued discussion of the revised business practice which was split into three business practices to keep processes separate. The group approved the three business practice revisions (BPR-028, BPR-029, and BPR-030) and forwarded them to Regional Tariff, Transmission, and Business Practices Working Groups for consideration. The PCWG also began discussing improvements to the Quarterly Project Tracking process to address MOPC concerns.

Seams Steering Committee: SPP staff updated the SCC on negotiations for the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Joint Operating Agreement (JOA), which is expected to be executed by the end of March. SPP Vice President of Engineering Lanny Nickell updated the committee on the SPP/MISO JOA dispute, presenting SPP's list of six renegotiation items. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) denied SPP's request for rehearing, but stated the JOA should be renegotiated. SPP staff presented the gap analysis for FERC Order 1000's interregional transmission planning requirements, and also provided a proposed work plan to meet the order's April 2013 compliance deadline. SSC Chairman Paul Malone created the Seams FERC Order 1000 Task Force, which will focus on Order 1000's interregional requirements. Finally, staff presented the SSC with 2012's expected seams activities.

Transmission Working Group: The TWG approved the 2013 ITP Near-Term Assessment's scope and additional generation to include in the study. The group is reviewing the 2013 ITP 20-Year Assessment scope, with plans to approve it in March. The TWG reviewed and approved BPRs 028-030 – Notifications to Construct (pre and post Jan. 1, 2012); Assignment and Novation, discussed creating a new quarterly flowgate process, and agreed an additional stability study is needed to determine system's necessary reactive needs in the upcoming years. The group also formed a task force to handle the movement of SPP Criteria, which is under the purview of TWG, to other SPP governing documents.

Integrated Marketplace Update

- The Integrated Marketplace program's overall status has changed from green to yellow, following a careful review of the expected duration and effort associated with integrated testing of Marketplace systems. An initial analysis of the testing effort indicates the milestone date to start market trials – May 15, 2013 – is in jeopardy (yellow status is defined as concern about meeting a certain deliverable on its assigned date). The Marketplace program is thoughtfully and critically evaluating actions to mitigate the impact of the potential testing delay, including: reallocating resources to focus on the more critical work; scheduling additional highly focused, rapid-cycle work sessions, or "sprints"; and locking down the program's scope to eliminate unnecessary work.
- The Marketplace program leadership met with CWG leadership and agreed 2012 was the right time to start reporting additional information on Program and Member Milestones. Going forward, the Marketplace program will include entry and exit criteria for Member Milestones and predecessor and critical-path indicators. Reporting this additional information is expected to improve overall communication and help ensure program and member readiness.
- Alstom, the Marketplace's market systems vendor, is now consistently running day-ahead market solutions in "Day Ahead Basic" mode. Several different components are now "talking" with each other and consistently exchanging 24 hours of data each time a day-ahead run is executed in Alstom's development environment.
- Market participants involved in the first Transmission Congestion Rights (TCR) Mock Auctions submitted more than 45,000 megawatts in Auction Revenue Rights (ARR) allocations in the first of three rounds. A total of three rounds of ARR allocations and an abbreviated TCR auction will be conducted through March. Thirty-one of the 53 MPs who signed up are participating in the auction's first phase, which runs through April 13. A second, recommended auction phase will be run April 2-August 31.
- More than 1,200 participants will have completed Customer Training's Marketplace Overview training sessions when the sixth and final class is conducted March 6-7. Twenty-seven market participants attended the Overview's two modules; more than 30 members have also attended the Overview training modules. Customer Training has also completed four of five "Preparing for the TCR Mock Auction" class, with the final session scheduled March 13 (seats are still available). A computer-based training version of the Marketplace Overview will be released by April 30.

- Operations personnel conducted a “day-in-the-life” exercise the week of January 30 to walk through the Marketplace’s normal and emergency procedures. SPP staff worked to determine workloads, document further requirements, and better understand interactions and processes on the Operations floor. The exercise also helped capture documentation for emergency conditions, which will help SPP comply with NERC requirements when it assumes Balancing Authority functions.
- The Integrated Marketplace protocols have been updated to [version 8.0](#).

Other Meetings

[Regional State Committee](#)

[Regional Tariff Working Group](#)

[System Protection and Control Working Group](#)

March Meetings

March 6 – Project Cost Working Group

March 7 – Cost Allocation Working Group

March 8 – Economic Studies Working Group

March 12 – Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee

March 12 – Operations Training Working Group

March 13-14 – Market Working Group

March 14 – E-RSC Working Group & Stakeholders Meeting

March 14-15 – Change Working Group

March 15 – Seams Steering Committee

March 20-21 – Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee

March 22 – Operating Reliability Working Group

March 22 – Regional Tariff Working Group

March 26-29 – System Operations Conference

March 27 – Oversight Committee

March 29 – Operations Training 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](#)

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