

# The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



June 2012

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## Mike Ross to Lead SPP Government Affairs, Public Relations

SPP announced May 14 U.S. Congressman Mike Ross will join SPP as its Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and Public Relations when his current term in Congress ends in January. Ross announced in July 2011 he would not seek re-election after six terms for Arkansas' 4th Congressional District. Read the full [press release](#).

## Integrated Marketplace Moves to Integration and Testing

- The Integrated Marketplace program is presenting a plan to the Board of Directors/Members Committee during the latter's July meeting as to how the program will regain its green status. The Marketplace continues to target the March 2014 Go-Live date.
- The Marketplace's Program Management Office has updated its organizational structure to guide the program's work during the Build-Test phase. The new management structure clarifies responsibilities, improves communication, and better aligns roles for the program's staff and contractors during Build-Test, which peaks with the scheduled start of Market Trials in May 2013.
- A total of 56 market participants (MPs) submitted their completed Marketplace registration packets by the June 1 deadline, in order to be able to participate in Market Trials. The Registration team will confirm receipt of all returned packets via email, and will contact MPs should there be a question about their registration.
- SPP has made two additional filings with the FERC since filing revisions to the Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) February 29. SPP submitted a response to comments and protests of the original filing, and made a supplemental filing revising the original OATT filing. Both filings were made May 15. SPP has requested a conditional order from FERC by July 31, 2012, and an effective date of March 1, 2014.
- The Credit and Risk Management workstream has begun Factory Acceptance Testing (FAT) for Release 1 of the Integrated Marketplace's Credit Management System at The Structure Group's Houston development center. FAT began April 23 for Release 1; it is scheduled to exit June 22.

## May Meeting Summaries

**[Business Practices Working Group:](#)** The BPWG reviewed the next steps to improve the Aggregate Transmission Service and Generator Interconnection study processes. The group was also presented with a notification that some Business Practices will need to be revamped, as Transmission Service Request processing will be automated to free up resources for the Integrated Marketplace.

**[Change Working Group:](#)** The Integrated Marketplace's program management provided the CWG with an overview of the program's transition from the Design Phase to Build-Test and related program structural changes. The program's management also introduced a recovery plan focused on regaining green status for the program. The plan will be presented to the CWG in July, and revisited monthly as needed with status reports. Group discussion was held around the Marketplace's critical-path member milestones, user-interface reviews, and public data; wind-farm data submission requirements; and upcoming ICCP workstream efforts. The CWG decided to form a User Interface Review Group to review user interfaces in conjunction with workstream liaisons. The group also voted to approve the Marketplace's readiness engagement metric dates with only a few minor changes.

**[Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee:](#)** The CBASC continues to develop the two registration-tool options to be presented to the Market and Operations Policy Committee in July: legal contract and associated matrix, and the Coordinated Functional Registration. The CBASC and Member Compliance Group met jointly to discuss individual concerns for the registration tool's selection. The group also reviewed the draft emergency operation communication scripts. Additionally, several members sent edits to the Open Access

Transmission Tariff's (OATT) Attachment AN, which have been posted and will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Corporate Governance Committee:** The committee met to continue its discussions on withdrawal obligations associated with regional transmission expansion costs. The group also discussed vacancies on the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee, each for a Transmission Using representative (candidate recommendations should be forwarded to [Stacy Duckett](#)). The committee also decided to proceed with a workshop for Organizational Group chairs and staff secretaries in November; details will be published soon.

**Cost Allocation Working Group:** The CAWG addressed directives from the Regional State Committee, heard a summary on monetization of metrics for use in the Regional Cost Allocation Review, and was briefed on Strategic Planning Committee activities to ensure compliance with FERC Order 1000 provisions not related to interregional cost allocation. The group also received updates from five other working groups.

**Economic Studies Working Group:** The ESWG met twice to kickoff the resource expansion phase of the 2013 Integrated Transmission Planning 20-Year Assessment (ITP20) scope, review key resource data for the study, and close out the 2012 Policy Survey covering EPA related retirements and renewable expectations.

**Market Working Group:** The MWG met in Dallas to review current business and the Integrated Marketplace's next steps, and also conducted a joint meeting with the Operating Reliability Working Group to discuss outage coordination. MWG members received updates from SPP's Market Monitoring Unit, Operations, and Regulatory groups, and reviewed a presentation on the Net Benefits Test for the EIS Market. The group approved three Marketplace Protocol Revision Requests.

**Model Development Working Group:** The MDWG finalized the 2013 Series Powerflow and Dynamic model sets, and also scheduled the 2013 Series.

**Operations Training Working Group:** Denney Fales (Kansas City Power & Light) was nominated and selected to fill an OTWG vacancy; he will serve a two-year term. Customer Training reminded the group the Integrated Marketplace Level 1 self studies are available through the SPP Learning Center. These modules are reflective of the Level 1 net conferences offered earlier this year. The OTWG also provided comments submitted to NERC for PER-005 RSAW.

**Project Cost Working Group:** The PCWG discussed adding language to the OATT clarifying the reimbursement of funds in a Notification to Construct with Conditions (NTC-C). A draft will be discussed at the group's next meeting for a Tariff Revision Request (TRR) and/or Business Practice Revision (BPR) to more clearly define the cost-recovery process for issued NTC-Cs. The PCWG reviewed quarterly cost estimate histories for 16 "legacy" projects, of which 11 have a current cost estimate greater than 20 percent of their respective original estimate. SPP staff will provide examples of correspondence between Transmission Owners and SPP after cost increases were identified at the PCWG's next meeting. The group also reviewed and made edits to a draft document providing guidelines for completing a Standardized Cost Estimate Reporting Template (SCERT); the group will consider the Transmission Working Group's comments after the latter's review. The PCWG also discussed the intent of the "Internal Escalation Rate" field on the SCERT and added clarifying language to the document. The PCWG discussed the Quarterly Project Tracking schedule and considered changes to better coordinate with MOPC and PCWG meeting schedules; SPP staff will provide a new proposed schedule in June. The group also continued its development of the process document for project cost review.

**Seams Steering Committee:** The SSC reviewed the March seams activity report and, based on its feedback, SPP staff committed to developing a new format to improve the report's readability. David Kelley updated the committee on the Western Area Power Administration Joint Operating Agreement (JOA). The JOA was signed, executed, and filed at FERC on April 20, with a proposed effective date of April 30, 2012. SPP's Lanny Nickell updated the SSC on the market-flow calculation dispute with MISO; negotiations are ongoing. Jake Langthorn, chair of the Seams FERC Order 1000 Task Force (SFOTF), said the SFOTF is continuing to work on Order 1000 compliance for interregional transmission planning. The concepts were discussed in a joint stakeholder meeting in April that was well attended by SPP and each of its neighbors.

**Transmission Working Group:** The TWG approved the 2012 Eastern Interconnection Reliability Assessment Group Report, a Voltage Securities Scope on Legacy Projects, addition and removal of flowgates from the Annual Flowgate Assessment, and the flowgates' associated transmission reliability margin. The group also approved load-pocket analysis to be completed on three member-requested load pockets and was updated on a Consolidated Balancing Authority model being built as a benchmark against the 2013 Integrated Transmission Planning Near-Term assessment report to determine any possible impacts from CBA implementation.

## Other Meetings

**Credit Practices Working Group**

**Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group**

**Operating Reliability Working Group**

**Regional Tariff Working Group**

## [System Protection & Control Working Group](#)

### **June Meetings**

June 6-7 – Entergy Regional State Committee

June 12 – Project Cost Working Group

June 13 – Cost Allocation Working Group

June 14 – Economic Studies Working Group

June 19 – RE Trustees

June 19-20 – Market Working Group

June 20-21 – Change Working Group

June 21 – Operating Reliability Working Group

June 21 – Seams Steering Committee

June 25 – Business Practices Working Group

June 26 – Finance Committee

June 27-28 – Regional Tariff Working Group

### **July Meeting**

July 2 – 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*.

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