

# The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



August 2012

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## SPP RE names Ciesiel general manager

SPP Regional Entity (RE) Trustees have named Ron Ciesiel general manager of the SPP RE, effective August 1. Ciesiel has spent 34 years in the electric utility industry, including 20 years with Gulf State Utilities and nine years with SPP – five with the SPP RE. Read the [full release](#).

## Marketplace systems back to green, iDashboard live

- SPP's Bruce Rew, the Integrated Marketplace's executive sponsor, gave status updates during a series of July presentations to the Board of Directors, Markets and Operations Policy Committee, the Regional State Committee, and the Change Working Group (CWG). Rew also presented a [Recovery Plan Approach document](#) that explains reasons for the program's yellow status. Three areas of concern were highlighted – testing, interfaces, and the POPS system (Post Operations-Pre Settlements) – along with the plans to mitigate those areas.
- SPP Director of Stakeholder Services Jim Gunnell and SPP Director of Settlements Philip Bruich have been assigned oversight of two of the program's three readiness areas – Market Participants (MPs) and SPP Staff, respectively. Gunnell, and Bruich will work with Marketplace Program Director Sam Ellis, who will continue his responsibility for Systems, to help coordinate the program's many moving parts and ensure they successfully reach Go-Live in March 2014.
- As part of the MP-engagement effort, SPP is also ramping up an Outreach Program to ensure MPs have what they need to be ready for the Marketplace launch in March 2014. The Outreach Program will complement activities already in place, such as CWG meetings, the use of liaisons, and customer training's extensive learning opportunities (clinics, information sessions, and job tasks on focused Marketplace topics). It will include everything from simple emails and phone calls to onsite visits by Marketplace staff.
- iDashboard, an online tool accessible through the Integrated Marketplace's [Readiness Center](#) and measuring participant readiness, is now available. iDashboard went live July 24, and will be the primary source for accessing the Marketplace's External Scorecard and the Participant Engagement Report.

## July Meeting Summaries

**[Board of Directors/Members Committee:](#)** The primary action item during the Board of Directors' regular quarterly meeting was approving the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendations regarding implementation of FERC Order 1000.

**[Change Working Group:](#)** Bruce Rew presented the Integrated Marketplace Program status change and the [Recovery Plan Approach](#). The group spent considerable discussion time on the Program components (Systems, SPP Readiness, and Participant Readiness) and the status of each. Jim Gunnell was introduced as having oversight of the Participant Readiness area to ensure MPs have the information needed in order to be ready for Integrated Marketplace Go-Live and to serve as an escalation point. Marketplace leadership also updated the CWG on its various initiatives, including [iDashboard](#) and other engagement-report processes, critical-path milestones, testing, market trials, public data, and ICCP. The Registration workstream reported its status as red, due to the Model Change Submission Tool's later-than-expected delivery. Other CWG reports included updates on the Wind Farm Data-Submission Requirements and the introduction of the Request Management System project.

**[Cost Allocation Working Group:](#)** The CAWG heard a discussion on the Strategic Planning Committee's Order 1000 Taskforce, an update on SEAMS Cost Allocation, a proposal on cost overruns for transmission projects, and heard two waiver requests. The group also received updates from six other working groups.

**[Credit Practices Working Group:](#)** The CPWG voted unanimously to approve a recommendation to the Finance Committee that SPP become the central counterparty to all transactions to comply with FERC Order 741

requirements.

**Economic Studies Working Group:** The ESWG reviewed items from the 2013 Integrated Transmission Planning 20-Year Assessment (ITP20) and received a significant update from the Metrics Task Force. The group provided adjustments to the generation expansion plan for the ITP20 Business as Usual future and scheduled an email vote August 1. The ESWG encouraged the Metrics Task Force to finalize its report and expressed confidence in the direction the group has taken to monetizing the benefit metrics.

**Market Working Group:** The MWG met in Dallas to review current business and the Integrated Marketplace's next steps. The group welcomed four new members and also announced two open seats. The MWG received updates from the Settlement User Group and SPP's Market Monitoring Unit and Regulatory groups, and reviewed presentations on FERC Order 755 and Transmission Congestion Rights design. The group approved two Marketplace Protocol Revision Requests (MPRRs) and sent them to other working groups for their review. The MWG added conference calls through 2012 to supplement the monthly face-to-face meetings as work begins on Marketplace improvements.

**Markets and Operations Policy Committee:** The MOPC met in Kansas City for its quarterly meeting, hearing reports from each working group. Major items debated and approved were: 1) Tariff revisions for Integrated Marketplace, reflecting work by the Regional Tariff Working Group; 2) recommending the suspension of some Notification to Construct (NTC) letters; 3) recommended approval of two Aggregate Study Waiver requests; and 4) agreed to the Consolidated Balancing Authority's majority opinion to follow the contract proposal for functions that existing BAs would be responsible for in the future. The MOPC also heard presentations on updates to the ITP20; Generation Interconnection and Aggregate Study Improvement work; Balanced Portfolio issues; Tres Amigas; and EIS Market benefits.

**Operating Reliability Working Group:** The ORWG reviewed MPRRs 62, 74, 76, and 86. The group also approved a request to retire the CLECO Wells Reactor Special Protection Scheme, but two Criteria revisions were discussed without action taken. The first revision was definition changes relating to the reserve products Spinning Reserve and Supplemental Reserve; the second – still under discussion – is a potential change where the SPP Reserve Sharing Group would move to annual reserve obligation calculations and away from a daily obligation.

**Operations Training Working Group:** The OTWG reported over 160 participants have engaged in the Integrated Marketplace's self-study, computer-based training. The learners include members, non-members, and current EIS MPs. The Marketplace's Level 2 training is still being developed, till underway. The training course catalog has been approved and published on the SPP website. The three-day SPP Train the Trainer was conducted in Little Rock, with excellent reviews from member trainers.

**Project Cost Working Group:** The PCWG considered the distinction between transmission and distribution facilities that should be made in Transmission Owners' cost estimates, but decided to examine the issue in depth in August. The group reviewed a cost estimate review process document and approved a motion to evaluate Applicable Legacy Projects that incur a deviation from the previous quarter of more than 20%. These projects cost more than \$20 million, are more than 100kv, and have a NTC issued prior to January 1, 2012. The PCWG will gain experience by exercising the new project-review process and providing a report to SPP staff. When legacy NTCs are modified with a new NTC number, the NTC will fall under the new (post-January 2012) cost-tracking process and will be re-baselined. Finally, the PCWG considered potential changes to the cost-tracking process that may be mandated by tariff changes needed to comply with FERC Order 1000.

**Regional Entity Trustees:** The Trustees unanimously approved [PRC-006-SPP-1](#), the SPP Under Frequency Load Shedding (UFLS) standard, for submittal to NERC. The standard was first presented to the Trustees in April; they deferred action pending receipt of additional information. On May 7, FERC issued [Order 763](#) approving a national UFLS standard. The Trustees heard a summary of Order 763 and [NERC's Motion to Correct the Record](#). They also heard recommendations from the UFLS Standard Drafting Team and SPP, in its role as the regional Planning Coordinator, that the Trustees submit PRC-006-SPP-1 to NERC. In approving the standard for submittal to NERC, the Trustees said PRC-006-SPP-1 is a fundamental standard of prime importance to reliability in the SPP region. If the NERC Board of Trustees approves the standard, it will be submitted to FERC for approval.

The Trustees also signed a Resolution honoring Greg Sorenson, an SPP RE senior compliance engineer and lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve currently serving in Afghanistan, for his service to SPP and the United States. The Trustees also accepted the 2012 Long Term Reliability Assessment and were presented with updates from the general manager on new and emerging issues, the SPP RE Enforcement group, and SPP representatives on NERC's Planning, Operating, Compliance and Certification, and Critical Infrastructure Protection Committees.

## Other Meetings

**Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee**

**Finance Committee**

[Human Resources Committee](#)

[Oversight Committee](#)

[Regional State Committee](#)

[Regional Tariff Working Group](#)

[Strategic Planning Committee](#)

## **August Meetings**

August 7 – Business Practices Working Group

August 7 – Project Cost Working Group

August 8 – Cost Allocation Working Group

August 8 – Regional State Committee

August 8-9 – Regional Tariff Working Group

August 13-16 – SPP System Operations Conference

August 14-15 – Market Working Group

August 15-16 – Regional Tariff Working Group

August 16 – Change Working Group

August 16 – Credit Practices Working Group

August 16 – Operations Training Working Group

August 16 – Quarterly Compliance Forum

August 21 – Settlement User Group

August 21-22 – Transmission Working Group

August 22-23 – Regional Tariff Working Group

August 22 – Summer Transmission Expansion Planning Summit

August 23 – Economic Studies Working Group

August 29-30 -- Regional Tariff Working Group

August 30 – Corporate Governance Committee

## **September Meetings**

September 5-6 – Regional Tariff Working Group

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*.

[SPP Calendar](#)

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