

# The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



September 2012

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## Working Groups discuss Integrated Marketplace topics; vendor forum held

- The Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee and the Change, Market, and Operating Reliability Working Groups met together in Dallas August 29-30 to discuss key Integrated Marketplace topics of discussion. These included the [Integrated Marketplace Reversion Plan](#), [ICCP Handbook](#), [AGC Integration Guide](#), Balancing Authority Waivers and Decertification during Market Trials testing, and responsibility for wind farm forecasting data submission. Members were asked to provide feedback on the Reversion Plan, which will go through the PIRG ([Programmatic Interface Review Group](#)) process.
- Representatives from nine vendors building systems for Marketplace participants attended a vendor forum at SPP Corporate Center August 24. The vendor reps learned how the Marketplace sandbox will function. The sandbox, a testing environment that replicates at least the minimal functionality needed to accurately test programs or other software code under development, goes live September 20.
- The Transmission Congestion Rights (TCR) workstream concluded its Mock Auction activities by posting final monthly auction results from its second phase August 31. The final mock auction attracted 26 SPP members, who bid on 294 unique paths. The team has now set its sights on TCR Market Trials, which begin in January 2013.
- [Several Registration key dates have been revised](#) as a result of CMT (Centralized Modeling Tool) and MCST (Model Change Submission Tool) production delays. With the MCST scheduled to be deployed in early January, SPP will accept [Integrated Marketplace registration packets](#) for model changes or additions through November 2012.
- Registration is now open for the [Integrated Marketplace's Market Clinics](#), which have been scheduled through May 2013 at six different locations in SPP's footprints. The Level 2 clinics are offered over a week-long period, and include three separate areas of focus: Generation, Transmission, and Load-Serving Entity. Log on to the [SPP Learning Center \(LMS\)](#) to register.
- The Integrated Marketplace Protocols have been updated to [version 11.1](#).

## August Meeting Summaries

**[Change Working Group:](#)** Integrated Marketplace leadership provided updates on the program's overall status and the Market Participant Readiness, Program System Readiness, and SPP Staff Readiness areas. The Marketplace program is currently reporting a yellow status, with Market Participant Readiness reporting yellow, Program System Readiness reporting green, and SPP Staff Readiness reporting grey (Staff Readiness will be reported during the October CWG meeting). The CWG was also updated on the current progress and status of each Marketplace program tower and workstream, and briefed on Marketplace Protocol Revision Requests (MPRRs) 85 (Provision of Wind Forecast Clarification) and 86 (XML Instructions Clarification).

**[Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee:](#)** The CBASC continued its review of the SPP Balancing Authority (BA) agreement. Based on the Board of Directors' decision to have SPP be the sole BA registrant for the CBA, discussions are continuing to clarify requirements that will require support from the Member Operating Areas after SPP assumes those responsibilities. The CBASC also discussed changes to the Emergency Operations Plan draft and initial thoughts on the [Integrated Marketplace's Reversion Plan](#).

**[Corporate Governance Committee:](#)** The CGC finalized the ballot for term elections commencing in January 2013. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting of Members, held in conjunction with the October Board of Directors/Members Committee meeting. Vacancies on the Finance Committee were filled. The CGC also continued its review of revisions to SPP's governing documents to address withdrawal obligations associated with regional transmission-cost allocation. The committee will meet following the October meeting to review additional revisions.

**[Cost Allocation Working Group:](#)** The CAWG heard updates on Regional State Committee decisions and Balanced Portfolio, and discussed Seams Cost Allocation and a proposal on transmission project cost overruns. The group also received updates from seven other working groups and set meeting times and locations for the

rest of 2012.

**Market Working Group:** The MWG reviewed current business and the Integrated Marketplace's next steps. The group formed the Mitigated Offer Task Force, which will be responsible for developing Appendix G (Mitigated Offer Development Guidelines) in the [Marketplace Protocols](#). The MWG received updates from SPP's Market Monitoring Unit and Regulatory groups, and reviewed a presentation on enhanced Combined Cycle design. The group approved nine MPRRs and sent them to other working groups for their review.

**Project Cost Working Group:** The PCWG convened twice, reviewing quarterly cost-estimate changes and compiling a list of additional information for Transmission Owners (TOs), in response to a MOPC action item to review Balanced Portfolio projects and determine whether the costs have stabilized. The group reviewed the information received from TOs and compiled additional questions during a subsequent conference call. The PCWG will continue its work on this action item in September. The group also finalized version 1.0 of the Standardized Cost Estimate Reporting Template and discussed the need to clarify the information to be reported. Finally, the PCWG continued to develop the project-review process document, including the handling of confidential information among working group members.

**Seams Steering Committee:** The SSC reviewed the status of an interregional planning process in response to FERC Order 1000. As a part of that process, the SSC determined SPP's portion of the Interregional Stakeholder Planning Advisory Committee (IPSAC), a joint stakeholder group, will be comprised of the SSC membership. SPP staff briefed the committee on the current planning activities with MISO and AECI (Associated Electric Cooperatives, Inc.) and provided updates on the SPP-MISO market flow dispute and the SPP-WAPA Joint Operating Agreement.

**System Protection and Control Working Group:** The SPCWG approved the removal of Cleco Power's Wells Special Protection Scheme, originally installed in 2005. The group also approved a two-year waiver for Western Farmers Electric Cooperative's installation of Disturbance Monitoring Equipment at the Anadarko Switchstation.

**Transmission Working Group:** The TWG held its quarterly meeting at SPP's new Corporate Center, approving a new CEII disclosure process, the 2013 Integrated Transmission Planning 20-Year Assessment's constraint list, and removal of the Wells Special Protection Scheme. The TWG also endorsed a coordinated planning effort for the Bushton-Ellsworth Interconnection request, and approved temporary flowgates and their associated Transmission Reliability Margin values as part of the quarterly process.

## Other Meetings

[Business Practices Working Group](#)

[Credit Practices Working Group](#)

[Economic Studies Working Group](#)

[Model Development Working Group](#)

[Operating Reliability Working Group](#)

[Operations Training Working Group](#)

[Regional Tariff Working Group](#)

## September Meetings

September 5-6 – Regional Tariff Working Group

September 7 – Market Working Group

September 10 – Operations Training Working Group

September 10-11 – Project Cost Working Group

September 12 – Business Practices Working Group

September 12 – Cost Allocation Working Group

September 12-13 – Operating Reliability Working Group

September 13 – Economic Studies Working Group

September 13 – Finance Committee

September 13 – Settlement User Group

September 17 – Seams Steering Committee

September 18-19 – Market Working Group

September 20 – Credit Practices Working Group

September 20-21 – Change Working Group  
September 21 – Project Cost Working Group  
September 24 – Finance Committee  
September 24-27 – System Operations Conference  
September 26-27 – Regional Tariff Working Group  
September 27 – Operations Training Working Group  
September 27 – Oversight Committee

**October Meetings**

October 1-2 – Project Cost Working Group  
October 3 – Cost Allocation Working Group  
October 4 – Economic Studies Working Group  
October 5 – Seams Steering 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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