

The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



October 2012

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Marketplace classifies Systems Readiness as yellow; Sandbox open

- The Integrated Marketplace has re-classified [Systems Readiness status as yellow](#). The program made the change because work scheduled to be completed before a key systems integration check point was not finished and because early testing indicated a risk of some late-arriving components not being ready for Market Trials in June 2013. With 17 months left and substantial progress made on all fronts, the Marketplace program remains confident it can meet the 2014 go-live date within its \$105 million capital budget.
- The Integrated Marketplace Sandbox was opened for play September 20, giving Market Participants (MPs) and vendors an opportunity to test their systems' interfaces with SPP. The Sandbox provides a testing environment that replicates the functionality needed to accurately test software under development.
- The Credit & Risk workstream has blown through the first round of Site Acceptance Testing (SAT), completing 233 of its 239 test cases for the Credit Management System (CMS). The team was able to complete SAT three weeks early by installing a CMS 1.1 patch to address the remaining defects.
- SPP is upgrading the Integrated Marketplace's current stakeholder inquiry process with the automated Request Management System, effective October 16. The new process will simplify the submission process and archive requests for future reference.

September Meeting Summaries

[Business Practices Working:](#) The BPWG welcomed new members Jenni Leger (Tenaska) and David Adamczyk (KCP&L). The group reviewed Business Practice Revision Requests (BPR) relating to Transmission Service Request (TSR) automation and the waiver process. The TSR automation BPR was forwarded to the Regional Tariff Working Group (RTWG) for review, and the waiver BPR was forwarded to the Cost Allocation Working Group. The BPWG discussed streamlining options for the Aggregate Study and Generation Interconnect processes, in light of SPP Vice President of Engineering Lanny Nickell's Innocentive initiative.

[Change Working Group:](#) The [Integrated Marketplace's](#) program leadership updated the three program areas: Systems Readiness, Market Participant (MP) Readiness, and SPP Staff Readiness. SPP's Sam Ellis explained the Systems Readiness area's status change from green to yellow. The CWG discussed the status change's primary drivers and the steps to return Systems Readiness to green. The group was updated on the status, recent accomplishments, and upcoming milestones for each of the Marketplace towers and workstreams. Updates were also provided for [PRR240](#), the [Request Management System](#) implementation, [Portal workstream](#), and Marketplace Inquiry Tracking.

[Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee:](#) The CBASC continued its work on the Balancing Authority agreement, reaching consensus with SPP and participant legal departments on the document. The effort to further identify the Balancing Authorities' (BAs) historical responsibilities supporting SPP as the sole BA registrant continues. The committee also provided input to other ongoing activities, including the development of the Integrated Marketplace's Reversion Plan.

[Economic Studies Working Group:](#) The ESGW reviewed the 2013 Integrated Transmission Planning 20-Year Assessment's (ITP20) progress, was updated on FERC Order 1000 Interregional efforts, received a summary of upcoming changes to Attachment O being considered by the RTWG, and approved metrics that monetize transmission project benefits in response to a Markets and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) request.

The ESGW earlier approved the generation resource expansion plans for the 2013 ITP20 futures 2-5. The group also heard updates regarding data inputs that will perform the 2012 NERC Probabilistic Assessment; the seams process being developed for SPP's compliance steps with Interregional FERC Order 1000; and provided comments on probabilistic planning in SPP's processes.

[Market Working Group:](#) The MWG met three times, once face-to-face. The group approved a charter modification increasing MWG membership to 18. The MWG also reviewed current business and the Integrated

Marketplace's next steps, continuing its work on Marketplace improvements. The group approved a Marketplace Protocol Revision Request (MPRR) outlining the process for establishing Market Hubs, and received updates from SPP's Market Monitoring Unit and Regulatory and Transmission Congestion Rights groups. Finally, the MWG reviewed a Settlements approach during Market Trials.

Model Development Working Group: The MDWG selected the short-circuit models for the 2013 Series, and discussed the 2012 Series Dynamic models' states and a finalization timeframe.

Operating Reliability Working Group: The ORWG reviewed and approved the proposed Centennial Special Protection System. The group reviewed and commented on several staff and working group reports, most notably an ESWG request for input regarding metrics measuring reliability benefits. The ORWG reviewed several MPRRs for the MWG, several of which were deemed to have no impact on operational reliability. The group devoted significant discussion regarding the creation of priority classes for regulation deployment within the Integrated Marketplace, and also discussed necessary revisions to BlackStart and Restoration plans in light of new EOP standards that take effect July 2013.

Operations Training Working Group: The OTWG is finalizing Customer Training's 2013 calendar, which will soon be posted to SPP.org. Several new course offerings will be included in next year's curriculum. SPP's Training department will post the enrollment dates, which begin in November. The final 2012 System Operations Conference will be held in Kansas City [October 22-25](#).

Oversight Committee: The Oversight Committee reviewed the Internal Audit Plan for 2013-2014, the 2012 State of the Market Report plans, and the usual activity reports from Internal Audit, Market Monitoring, and Compliance during its regular quarterly meeting. Compliance presented the committee a plan for targeting Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) regional compliance. The committee was also updated on its expected role in FERC Order 1000 compliance, specifically coordinating participants for the Independent Expert Panels planned for the proposed projects' assessment.

Project Cost Working Group: The PCWG reviewed Balanced Portfolio projects to determine whether costs have stabilized, as directed by the MOPC. The group also finalized a project-review process document, discussed handling of confidential information, classification of project costs in the Standardized Cost Estimate Reporting Template, and reviewed tariff language changes for the Order 1000 compliance filing. The PCWG intends to complete its review of Balanced Portfolio projects before its October meeting.

Transmission Working Group: The TWG met jointly with the ESWG to discuss RTWG-developed draft tariff language, necessary to comply with FERC Order 1000. The TWG met separately to discuss a proposed Special Protection System, SPP Governing Document revisions, the Notification-to-Construct Business Practice, and a 2013 ITP20 Assessment Update from the Economic Studies staff.

Other Meetings

Cost Allocation Working Group

Credit Practices Working Group

Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group

Finance Committee

Regional Tariff Working Group

Seams Steering Committee

October Meetings

October 5 – Seams Steering Committee

October 9-11 – Fall Settlements Users Conference

October 10 – Human Resources Committee

October 11 – Finance Committee

October 12 – Market Working Group

October 15 – Operations Training Working Group

October 16-17 – Markets and Operations Policy Committee

October 17-18 – Multiregional Modeling Working Group

October 18 – Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee

October 18 – Strategic Planning Committee

October 22-25 – Systems Operation Conference

October 23-24 – Market Working Group
October 24-25 – 24-25 – Change Working Group
October 24-25 – System Protection & Control Working Group
October 22-25 – Systems Operation Conference
October 25 – Regional Tariff Working Group
October 25 – Operations Training Working Group
October 29 – Regional State Committee
October 29 – RE Trustees
October 30 – Board of Directors and Annual Meeting of Members
October 30 – Corporate Governance Committee
October 31 – Market Working Group

November Meetings

November 1 – Operating Reliability 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](#)

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[SPP Governing Documents](#)