

The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



November 2012

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FERC gives Marketplace its conditional acceptance

- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission gave its [conditional acceptance](#) to the Integrated Marketplace October 18. FERC said it found the proposed Marketplace “to be just and reasonable, as modified, subject to conditions established in the order.” FERC gave SPP 90 days to make a compliance filing, which will go through the normal stakeholder process.
- Market participants planning to take part in TCR (Transmission Congestion Rights) Market Trials face a November 9 deadline to complete their connectivity checklists and other activities. TCR Market Trials Connectivity Test/Data Exchange Certification execution begins November 12.
- SPP has upgraded the Integrated Marketplace’s stakeholder inquiry process with the automated Request Management System (RMS). The new process simplifies the submission process, archives requests for future reference, tightens accountability, and strengthens SPP’s commitment to answer submitted questions within 5 business days. The RMS helped SPP answer 97% of the 109 questions received since October 16 within the service-level agreement.
- The [first Internal Readiness scorecard](#) has been distributed, with SPP’s readiness classified as green. The System and Participant readiness legs are still in yellow status, but full connectivity testing is still scheduled to begin in January.

October Meeting Summaries

Annual Meeting of Members: The primary agenda item was elections. The following were elected to three-year terms, commencing January 1, 2013: Jim Eckelberger and Harry Skilton (Board of Directors); Dave Christiano (Regional Entity Trustee); Mike Deggendorf, Mike Wise, Gary Roulet, Kevin Smith and Tom Kent (Members Committee).

Board of Directors/Members Committee: Primary action items during the quarterly meeting – the Board’s first at the new Corporate Center – were approving the 2013 budget and administrative fee; the latter will be 31.5 cents. The Board of Directors approved the appointments of Mike Wise (Golden Spread) and Coleen Wells (KEPCo) to fill Finance Committee vacancies.

Change Working Group: The CWG was updated on FERC’s conditional approval of the Integrated Marketplace, which will necessitate an SPP compliance filing in January 2013. The program’s Critical Path Milestones will be reassessed in light of the FERC ruling. SPP staff updated the CWG on Marketplace outreach and readiness efforts, workstream and tower status, changes to the training schedule, and work to identify embedded entities. The group also reviewed and discussed the Interchange Scheduling Reference Manual and impacts and next steps for [PRR240 \(Non-Dispatchable Resources Curtailment\)](#).

Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee: The CBASC received updates from and discussed actions taken by the Market and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) regarding both the Balancing Authority (BA) agreement and the Integrated Marketplace’s Reversion Plan. The group also discussed the status of Steering Committee items, such as the ongoing effort to identify embedded entities and their need for ICCP links or other avenues for data exchange with SPP. The CBASC discussed the preliminary process being considered for tie-line metering checkouts between SPP and external BAs, including a validation piece to be supported by the existing BAs. In addition, a group of the CBASC members volunteered to work with SPP Operations on a voluntary, informal basis to help prepare SPP staff for the mock BA readiness audit next spring.

Corporate Governance Committee: The committee continued discussions on withdrawal obligations associated with regional transmission expansion costs. Updated revisions will be reviewed in November, with plans to take final action on a recommendation in December for presentation at the January meetings. Calpine’s Lori Dunn was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Human Resources Committee. Time constraints forced postponement of action to establish a Regional Compliance Working Group.

Economic Studies Working Group: The ESWG discussed and prioritized a set of the benefit metrics that may be used in the 2013 Integrated Transmission Planning 20-Year Assessment (ITP20); was updated on the

assessment's progress; and reviewed techniques for the treatment of wind generation in the ITP10 and ITP20 processes.

Finance Committee: The committee developed a recommendation to the SPP Board of Directors for the 2013 operating and capital budgets. Significant attention was paid to staffing levels, capital expenditures and programs, true-up methodology for prior year over and under recovery, and future rates. The committee discussed the impact of large transmission-expansion costs, which will be largely implemented in 2017 transmission rates and opportunities to minimize SPP's administrative fees, lessening the ratepayers' impact.

Market and Operations Policy Committee: The MOPC conducted its quarterly meeting in San Antonio. The committee approved compliance filing language to meet the FERC Order 1000 requirements for regional planning; approved language for use in the Consolidated Balancing Authority agreement; and reviewed several transmission expansion project costs. The MOPC discussed the Balanced Portfolio cost changes issue and responses. The committee also discussed and approved a number of Tariff revisions and market protocol revisions.

Market Working Group: The MWG met three times, approving a software change related to ARR (Auction Revenue Rights) self-conversion and passing 10 Marketplace Protocol Revision Requests (MPRRs). The group reviewed presentations and related MPRRs on FERC Order 755 compliance and enhanced combined cycle design. The MWG also received updates from SPP's Market Monitoring Unit, Regulatory, and TCR (Transmission Congestion Rights) groups, and reviewed a presentation on the implementation of Market-to-Market congestion management and coordination with Midwest ISO.

Operations Training Working Group: The OTWG has published the [2013 Operations Training Calendar](#); course registration will open November 14 at 8 a.m. (CST). Registered users within the [SPP Learning Center](#) will receive emails about registration details. The Learning Center also has classes available for Integrated Marketplace Level 2 Deep Dives. A revised Marketplace training calendar will be published shortly. The final 2012 System Operations Conference was held in Kansas City at KCP&L facilities.

Project Cost Working Group: The PCWG finalized its review of the Balanced Portfolio project costs for report to MOPC, finding that costs have stabilized. The group also reviewed and provided comments on the draft Notification to Construct Review business practice. The PCWG reviewed a draft confidentiality agreement for members and provided comments to SPP staff. The agreement would apply to PCWG members reviewing confidential information provided by Transmission Owners. Members will provide their internal legal review's feedback in November.

Regional State Committee: The RSC held its annual meeting, approving a cost-allocation methodology for SPP Order 1000 Interregional compliance filing for seams projects. The RSC also approved its 2013 budget and elected its 2013 officers. Kansas Corporation Commissioner Tom Wright will serve as president, Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Dan Murphy as vice president, and Public Utility Commission of Texas Chairman Donna Nelson as secretary and treasurer.

RE Trustees: The SPP RE Trustees heard the general manager's reports, including updates on the Bulk Electric System definition; Facilities Ratings Alert program; most violated standards; misoperations; and system event follow-up. Staff reported on the Winter Reliability Assessment, which found that no reliability issues are expected for the upcoming season. Staff also reported on the regional UFLS standard, which is before the NERC Board of Trustees November 7. The Enforcement report covered third-quarter activities and an overview of factors that impact the annual caseload. There are 205 open violations; 59 are classified High Impact. The goal is to process 245 violations in 2012 and maintain a one-year caseload. The 2012 SPP RE Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey report showed increased satisfaction overall and in all four major categories. AECC's Robert McClanahan, SPP RE's representative on the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee, provided updates on recent cyber-attacks.

Other Meetings

[Cost Allocation Working Group](#)

[Human Resources Committee](#)

[Regional Tariff Working Group](#)

[Seams Steering Committee](#)

[System Protection & Control Working Group](#)

November Meetings

November 6 – Project Cost Working Group

November 6 – Business Practices Working Group

November 7-8 – Transmission Working Group

November 8 – Cost Allocation Working Group
November 12 – Seams Steering Committee
November 12-14 – Market Working Group
November 13-14 – RE Fall Compliance Workshop
November 13-15 – Model Development Working Group
November 14-15 – Change Working Group
November 15 – Economic Studies Working Group
November 15 – Credit Practices Working Group
November 15 – Operating Reliability Working Group
November 16 – Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee
November 19 – Operations Training Working Group
November 26-27 – Organizational Committee Chairs & Secretaries
November 27 – Settlements User Group
November 29 – Regional Tariff Working Group
November 30 – Market Working Group

December Meetings

December 3 – Economic Studies Working Group
December 3-5 – Market Working Group
December 5 – Cost Allocation 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](#)

[SPP Governing Documents](#)