

The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



December 2012

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Marketplace Update: FERC grants extension for compliance filing

- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted SPP's extension request for its Integrated Marketplace compliance filing, now set for Feb. 15, 2013. The 30-day extension request ensures the Board of Directors and Markets and Operations Policy Committee would not have to re-schedule their January meetings to vote on SPP's response to the FERC's October 18 [conditional acceptance of the Marketplace](#). Separately, SPP has also requested a rehearing from FERC on some Marketplace items.
- The Integrated Marketplace has given some participants an extra week to complete Structured/Unstructured Testing on the Model Change Submission Tool (MCST). Market Participants and Transmission Owners were 54% tested across all scripts as of November 30. The MCST goes into Marketplace Production Jan. 7, 2013; it is a modeling tool that will allow Marketplace participants to submit market- and reliability-related model changes for their systems. The MCST will be the method by which all model changes are made for Marketplace, replacing the use of registration packets.
- SPP hosted an Integrated Marketplace education forum for member and commission regulatory staff November 7. The forum drew staff from seven commissions and review boards – Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- A [heat map](#) of the Integrated Marketplace's key systems and their status has been added to the Marketplace's [Readiness Center](#).
- SPP Customer Training is completing the Market Clinics that will begin in February. The clinics – along with Level 2 Deep Dives – are both available for registration through the [SPP Learning Center](#).

November Meeting Summaries

[Business Practices Working Group:](#) The BPWG reviewed Business Practice Revision Requests (BPR) relating to the Authorization to Plan (ATP), Notice to Construct (NTC), and Marketplace Import Service. Options to streamline the Aggregate Transmission Study and Generation Interconnect processes were discussed in light of the Innocentive initiative. The RTWG passed a TSR Automation BPR, which will be presented to the Operating Reliability Working Group.

[Change Working Group:](#) The CWG continued focusing on Integrated Marketplace non-yellow status workstreams, hearing reports and mitigation plans from Markets, Settlements, Registration, Market Trials and Testing. Discussion centered around whether system-delivery delays would leave enough time for adequate testing efforts. SPP's Bruce Rew, the Marketplace's executive sponsor, reiterated the program's priority remains beginning Market Trials on schedule. The CWG also discussed FERC conditional-approval compliance efforts and timelines, and upcoming EIS Market failover plans.

[Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee:](#) The CBASC continued working on several initiatives, including forming a committee subset to help SPP staff prepare for the Balancing Authority function's Spring 2013 mock audit. Staff is preparing a scope document to define the audit's objectives and expectations for all participating parties. The CBASC also continues to follow the Balancing Authority Agreement and the Reversion Plan's progress.

[Corporate Governance Committee:](#) The committee continues its work on changes to SPP's governing documents addressing transmission-expansion cost allocation in the case of a membership withdrawal. The group received preliminary information on the organization's indemnification policy, an issue recently assigned by the Board of Directors.

[Economic Studies Working Group:](#) SPP staff updated the ESGW on the 2013 Integrated Transmission Planning 20-Year Assessment (ITP20), explaining the reliability, policy, stability, and economic steps being taken to develop possible projects mitigating futures' needs. The group looked at proposed transmission projects and the upcoming ITP20 schedule. Staff also recommended generation expansion plans for the SPP footprint and the Eastern Interconnect's use in the 2013 ITP20 assessment for Future 5. The ESGW approved resource plans for the joint future that included conventional natural gas generation (combined cycle and combustion turbines)

and renewable generation from wind turbines. Finally, staff briefed the ESWG on the next Planning Summit, and encouraged members to participate as panelists.

Model Development Working Group: The MDWG focused on data reporting of Load Serving Entities (LSEs) and how to increase participation during the model-building process. Other discussion topics included planning-versus-operations modeling and a generation-retirement process

Operating Reliability Working Group: The ORWG discussed – but took no action – on the proposed removal of the Flat Ridge Wind Farm’s SPS (special protection scheme) in Kansas. It was given the latest Authorization to Plan and Notice to Construct business-process drafts, and also approved a criteria revision request to modify the calculation of reserve-sharing group member obligations from a daily process to an annual process.

Operations Training Working Group: Operations Training registration for 2013 is now open; if a class or System Operations Conference is full, interested attendees are encouraged to join the waiting list. OTWG and SPP trainers are working with SPP engineers to improve the Dispatcher Training Simulator’s (DTS) stability; progress has been made to DTS and class scenarios for the 2013 training and simulation classes. The group also reviewed and updated its charter, which will be posted on SPP.org later this month. Looking ahead, the OTWG will replace several members leaving in 2013, including OTWG Chair Shannon Bolan and Vice-Chair Richard Appel.

Project Cost Working Group: The PCWG reviewed the proposed Confidentiality Agreement for group members; SPP staff will re-distribute suggested edits for December. The PCWG also reviewed background information for review of the Priority Projects and “legacy” projects. SPP staff will request additional information from transmission owners. The group also discussed reduced Standardized Cost Estimate Reporting Template (SCERT)s for projects under 100 kilovolts and decided to bring back member comments in December. The PCWG agreed to a SCERT change allowing non-transmission costs to be reported. The group discussed the definition of “Under Construction” in the Notice to Construct Review Business Practice and suggested edits for Business Practices Working Group consideration. The PCWG also approved a draft template for reporting out-of-bandwidth cost estimates and requested SPP staff draft definitions for “Project” and “Upgrade” for the SCERT Data Dictionary.

Regional Tariff Working Group: The RTWG approving five Market Compliance Revision Requests (MCRR)s during November, one Market Protocol Revision Request and one Tariff Revision Request. The group reviewed presentations on Crediting Process Project Update and Revenue Distribution with Balanced Portfolio Reallocations, and also received updates from the Crediting Process Task Force.

Other Meetings

Cost Allocation Working Group

Credit Practices Working Group

Market Working Group

Seams Steering Committee

Transmission Working Group

December Meetings

December 6 – Economic Studies Working Group

December 10 – Finance Committee

December 10 – Operations Training Working Group

December 10 – Oversight Committee

December 10 – Board of Directors/Members Committee

December 11 – Business Practices Working Group

December 11 – Corporate Governance Committee

December 11-13 – Regional Tariff Working Group

December 13 – Operating Reliability Working Group

December 13-14 – Project Cost Working Group

December 17-19 – Market Working Group

December 18 – Critical Infrastructure Protection

December 18 – Seams Steering Committee

December 18 – Settlements User Group

December 19-20 – Change Working Group

December 19 – Transmission Working Group

January Meetings

January 2-4 – Regional Tariff 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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