

The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



February 2013

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SPP Board approves \$751M in transmission-expansion projects

The SPP Board of Directors approved a near-term transmission expansion plan January 29 that will result in \$751 million in new transmission projects across its eight-state Regional Transmission Organization region. The projects are expected to be constructed over the next six years in all eight states. Read the full [press release](#).

Marketplace Update: Connectivity Testing, TCR Market Trials off to good starts

- The Integrated Marketplace program picked up further momentum by beginning Market Trials Connectivity Testing and TCR (Transmission Congestion Rights) Market Trials as scheduled, January 7 and January 14, respectively. SPP conducted 21 appointments during the first three weeks of Connectivity Testing, with participants passing 96% of the 193 test cases executed. Market Participants (MPs) used production TCR systems to imitate interactions with the Marketplace TCR system during TCR Market Trails, which have already moved on to the ARR (Annual Revenue Rights) Allocation phase.
- The Registration workstream has regained green status now that the Marketplace's Centralized Modeling Tool and Model Change Submission Tool (MCST) overcame development delays to go live in production. MPs are using the tools to automate much of the modeling process; the MCST will remain the only mechanism to make reliability and commercial model changes for the Marketplace going forward.
- SPP has accepted delivery of two preliminary releases of Markets System software and the final release of the Settlements calculation engine, which is undergoing site acceptance testing. The Settlements workstream was able to make up a six-week delay with diligent testing before shipment, and the workstream has also been upgraded to green status.
- The SPP Board of Directors/Members Committee approved more than 40 Marketplace Compliance Revision Requests (MCRRs), addressing Marketplace design changes as a result of FERC's conditional approval October 18. The MCRRs will be included in SPP's compliance filing to the FERC February 15.

January Meeting Summaries

Board of Directors/Members Committee: The Board of Directors/Members Committee approved numerous changes required for the Integrated Marketplace tariff filing at FERC during its regular quarterly meeting. The committee also approved a Go/No Go Team for the project. The Board approved SPP's Organizational Group rosters, an annual requirement. In addition, the committee approved the Near-Term Integrated Transmission Plan and SPP Transmission Expansion Plan. Notices to Construct will be issued accordingly. A Special Meeting of Members was held to hold elections for vacancies on the Members Committee; Phil Crissup (OG&E) and Ricky Bittle (Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation) were elected to serve.

Business Practices Working Group: The BPWG reviewed SPP staff proposals for process improvements to the Aggregate Transmission Service Study and Generator Interconnection Agreement. The processes are being revised to reduce Customer Relations' current timeframe, and are scheduled for submission to the Members and Operations Committee (MOPC) in April.

Change Working Group: The CWG was briefed by Market Working Group (MWG) representatives on previously approved, member-impacting Marketplace Protocol Revision Requests (MPRRs) and the Reserve Sharing Group Proposal; CWG and MWG staff will determine how to plug the CWG into the MPRR impact-assessment phase. Integrated Marketplace personnel updated the CWG on the program's latest developments, including Connectivity Testing, TCR Market Trials, Go/No-Go criteria, Market Participant readiness, and Member Outreach. The group also heard a report on the Credit Stack Analysis Project, and discussed PRR (Protocol Revision Request) 242 Non-Dispatchable Resource Firm Service Compliance. Finally, the CWG was introduced to the Market Power Mitigation Data Requirements project, driven by MPRR 44 before reviewing the stakeholder survey results.

Cost Allocation Working Group: The CAWG heard presentations on Z2 crediting, the 2013 Integrated

Transmission Plan 20-Year Assessment, the Organizational Effectiveness Survey, Transmission Owner Formula Rate Notices, and SPP's Draft Outreach Plan for state commission staff education sessions. The group also heard updates from six other task forces and working groups.

Market Working Group: The MWG continued its review and approval of Tariff and protocol revisions associated with Marketplace Compliance Revision Requests (MCRRs) for SPP's upcoming compliance filing to FERC. The group also reviewed and approved revisions by other working groups on MPRRs related to business continuity (MPRR 108) and pseudo-tying (MPRR 69), and EIS Protocol revisions related to Protocol Revision Request (PRR) 240, Compliance (PRR 242), and approved three proposed changes to SPP Criteria.

Markets and Operations Policy Committee: The MOPC approved more than 40 MCRRs necessary to comply with FERC's October 18 Integrated Marketplace order. The committee also approved the 2013 Integrated Transmission Planning Near-Term Assessment including approximately \$700 million in transmission expansion for reliability. There were a number of other changes to the tariff, business practices, market protocols, and group charters that were approved. The group approved a policy paper on inter-regional Order 1000 requirements positions.

Operating Reliability Working Group: The ORWG reviewed MCRRs involving changes to the Integrated Marketplace protocols and SPP's Open Access Transmission Tariff. It also reviewed and approved a new version of the SPP Reliability Coordinator Area Restoration Plan, taking effect July 1, 2013. MISO also presented a set of proposed changes to the MISO Reliability Plan reflecting that RTO's inclusion of Entergy and several SPP Balancing Authorities.

Operations Training Working Group: The OTWG made its final preparations for 2013 training, which began January 28 with a Sub Regional Restoration Drill. SPP is offering eight restoration drills, two emergency response drills, 28 EOPs (emergency operations procedures) net conferences, six Regional Emergency Operations classroom sessions, five System Operations Conferences, and four train-the-trainers events. Interested participants can register via the [SPP Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#). The first of six [Integrated Marketplace Clinics](#) takes place this week in Omaha, Neb. Registration for future clinics is available through the [SPP LMS](#).

The OTWG is accepting nominations for open seats. Members will be selected based on their exposure to system operator or market training. Desired responsibilities include those who provide training, supervise those who train, or system operator and market personnel who receive training. Please contact [Leslie Sink](#) or [Shannon Bolan](#) for more information.

Project Cost Working Group: The PCWG reviewed updated confidentiality agreements containing edits from SPP's legal staff and others; a more in-depth discussion will take place during the February meeting once members' legal staffs have had a chance to settle on language. The group discussed project estimates that cross the threshold for applicable projects and asked SPP staff to redline the business practices to allow PCWG review of such projects. The PCWG also discussed a request from the Transmission Working Group (TWG) to add a separate field to the Standardized Cost Estimate Reporting Template (SCERT) itemizing the dollar amount of escalation in the cost estimate, but did not make the change. The group decided not to recommend changing the dollar threshold for Applicable Projects, and decided to change the business practice to bring Legacy Projects greater than \$20 million and 100 kilovolts under the PCWG review process. The group also decided to ask MOPC whether Legacy Projects' bandwidths should be changed. Finally, the PCWG decided to review the Environmental Resource list.

Regional Entity Trustees: The Trustees reviewed SPP RE's 2012 Year End Report; staff had a high level of success measured by the year's goals and metrics. The Trustees also approved new goals and metrics to guide employees' performance in 2013. The enforcement group reported a 30% reduction in incoming violations over 2011. Of the 173 violations, 54% were self-identified (a positive trend). Misoperations have dropped and the region has had nine consecutive quarters with no vegetation contacts (also positive developments). Sunflower's Noman Williams reported the NERC Planning Committee (PC) reviewed the Bulk Electric System definition thresholds and did not find any technical basis to change the Standard Drafting Team's original work. The PC also advised against adding a demand response function to the NERC functional model or a standard on protection system commissioning. The Standards Process Manual Task force drafted revisions to the SPP Regional Standards Process Manual; comments are due Feb. 9 to [Emily Pennel](#).

Regional Tariff Working Group: The RTWG held multiple meetings during January to allow review time of MCRRs and help meet FERC's February 15 compliance filing deadline. The group reviewed and approved 27 MCRRs, six MPRRs, and three TRRs with tariff revisions. SPP staff updated the RTWG on the Credit Stack Analysis Project and the Loss Matrix and MwMile issue.

Strategic Planning Committee: The SPC met for the first time since last summer and reviewed its effectiveness following the year-end stakeholder surveys. Chair Ricky Bittle (AECC) led a discussion regarding the SPP Board of Directors' involvement in strategic planning and whether to retire the SPC. The committee reached a consensus that its current structure is not unusual and proposed several solutions taken up at the January Board of Directors meeting. The SPC also heard updates on parallel Aggregate Study and Generator Interconnection Study staff process-improvement efforts, the Seams Steering Committee, and FERC Order 1000.

System Protection and Control Working Group: The SPCWG began the new year with new leadership: Chair Rick Gurley (AEP), Vice Chair Tim Hinken (KCP&L), and Staff Secretary Doug Bowman (SPP). The group received MOPC approval of a request to remove the Westar Special Protection Scheme at the Flatridge Wind Farm, and also prepared a first draft of an UFLS standard implementation plan. The final plan will be submitted for MOPC and board approval prior to an October 2013 NERC deadline.

Other Meetings

Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee

Economic Studies Working Group

Human Resources Committee

Regional State Committee

Seams Steering Committee

Transmission Working Group

February Meetings

February 6 – Cost Allocation Working Group

February 7 – Seams Steering Committee

February 8 – Generation Working Group

February 12 – Project Cost Working Group

February 12 – Settlement User Group

February 12-13 – Market Working Group

February 12-13 – Transmission Working Group

February 14 – Change Working Group

February 14 – Economic Studies Working Group

February 19 – Finance Committee Meeting

February 21 – Credit Practices Working Group

February 26 – Settlement User Group

February 26-27 – Regional Tariff Working Group

February 28 – Corporate Governance Committee

March Meetings

March 4 – Operations Training Working Group

March 5 – SPP RE Workshop

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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