

The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



July 2013

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Marketplace Update: TCR Market Trials back on track for Go-Live

- The SPP Integrated Marketplace program has resumed the TCR (Transmission Congestion Rights) Phase 2 Market Trials after installing a fix for a revenue inadequacy issue discovered during Phase 2's annual auction, and is on track to hit its October 18 Go-Live date. The pause gave market participants (MPs) additional time to familiarize themselves with the TCR Market User Interface and bidding practices. The Marketplace program began rerunning the annual auction June 25; final results indicated positive revenues for all periods.
- [Structured Market Trials' \(SMT\)](#) test scenarios continue to increase in complexity since SMT began June 3. Seven official Operating Days – when SPP staff analyzes market results and offers support – have been conducted, with 38 of 50 eligible MPs submitted Real-Time Balancing Market offers during those days. The test period is the third of four such phases in [Marketplace Market Trials](#), and concludes November 3.
- SPP has converted part of its Maumelle Operations Center into the Market Trials Command Center. Dozens of staffers – including Customer Relations reps, subject-matter experts, and technical support – have crowded into the space for ongoing testing efforts and SMT support. They ensure at least two staffers are answering a telephone hotline for “critical” or “high” issues and addressing submissions to the [Request Management System](#). [Weekly conference calls](#) are also held each Friday to review with MPs the previous weeks SMT results and preview the upcoming week.
- SPP's Customer Training Department has wrapped the last of its six week-long Integrated Marketplace Clinics, which began back in February. The clinics, held at five SPP member sites and in Dallas, attracted 765 participants. They focused on generation, transmission, and load-serving entities, and the new responsibilities MPs will face in the Marketplace.

June Meeting Summaries

[Business Practices Working Group:](#) The BPWG worked with the Process Improvement Interim Task Force to develop tariff language for the Aggregate Transmission Service Study Backlog Clearing process (ATSS-BCP) and Generator Interconnection Agreement improvement concepts, both approved by the Markets and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC) in April. The ATSS-BCP's modified tariff language is scheduled for presentation to the MOPC in July. Three Business Practice Revisions (BPRs) were approved for submission to MOPC and involved Notice to Construct clarification and reserving transmission over DC ties.

[Change Working Group:](#) The CWG held significant discussion regarding the Transmission Congestion Rights (TCR) Market Trials' annual action and updated timeline. The group was updated on the Integrated Marketplace's Market Trials, Markets, Settlements, Regulatory, and Readiness activities. The Readiness update included a review of edits to [MP Readiness metrics](#). A Joint Working Group meeting between the CWG, Market Working Group, Operating Reliability Working Group, and Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee will be held July 24.

[Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee:](#) The CBASC continues to develop the Operating Protocols document, providing guidance and instruction on support needed from current Balancing Authorities as SPP becomes the sole registrant of the Consolidated Balancing Authority. The committee is following up with SPP staff on the April-May BA Readiness Evaluation exercise. The CBASC is also working with SPP staff to finalize compliance waivers after having received recommended approval from SERC and awaiting final approval from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). The committee has been working with the Market Trials Review Group reviewing and providing input for the Integrated Marketplace's Parallel Operations and Deployment Test guides.

[Cost Allocation Working Group:](#) The CAWG was briefed on the Long-Term Congestion Rights Task Force Design Proposal Plan, the SPP-MISO Joint Operating Agreement, FERC Order 1000, and the Aggregate Study Waiver. The group was also updated on the Regional Allocation Review Task Force and other working groups.

Economic Studies Working Group: The ESWG approved the 2013 Integrated Transmission Plan 20-Year Assessment (ITP20)'s report and plan, and also developed the 2015 ITP10 scope.

Market Working Group: The MWG focused on a process design for Grandfathered Agreement (GFA) Carve Outs in the SPP Marketplace. The proposed design, which includes significant changes to the protocol and tariff language, is captured in Marketplace Protocol Revision Request (MPRR) 133. The MWG was updated by SPP Operations on the Marketplace Structured Market Trials' status, including a timeline for when key design elements from v. 15.0a of the [Integrated Marketplace Protocols](#) will be included in the Market Trials systems. SPP Legal informed the group on proposed tariff changes related to a forthcoming petition to the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to exempt the Marketplace from CFTC jurisdiction.

Operations Training Working Group: The OTWG has begun planning the 2014 Regional Operations course offerings. The deliverables will be agreed upon by October for publication this fall. The OTWG is also establishing goals for the 2014 Go-Live and Post Go-Live Integrated Marketplace training deliverables. The group will research satisfaction surveys and course evaluations during 2013 to ensure all recommendations are considered for the 2014 training year. The SPP training group and the OTWG will thoroughly analyze all program offerings to ensure SPP's training is timely, relevant, and fosters a culture of reliability and compliance.

Oversight Committee: The committee was updated on FERC Order 1000 processes under development, particularly those it will carry out. Regular activity reports from Internal Audit, Compliance, and Market Monitoring included status of the controls audit; updates on preparations for SPP's Critical Infrastructure Protection audit; and development of metrics for monitoring new market services.

Project Cost Working Group: The PCWG reviewed the draft of the quarterly report on project cost updates, and approved it with formatting changes in Appendix 1. The group discussed changes to Business Practice 7060 needed to comply with tariff changes necessitated by FERC Order 1000. The group agreed Notifications to Construct with Conditions (NTC-C) would not be needed for competitive projects, because the required cost-estimate bandwidths for both competitive projects and NTC-C projects are the same. The PCWG approved adding inflation costs to baseline estimates to determine whether a quarterly cost estimate is within the required bandwidth. SPP staff will use the assumed inflation rate during the project's study and approval. The group also directed SPP staff to remove the internal escalation fields from the Standardized Cost Estimate Reporting Template (SCERT) and the SCERT Data Dictionary to avoid double counting inflation.

Regional Entity Trustees: The SPP RE Trustees approved for submission to NERC the SPP RE 2014 Business Plan/Budget and revised Regional Standards Development Process Manual. They heard updates from the SPP RE's general manager and Compliance, Enforcement, and Event Analysis groups. The SPP RE has issued 90 incoming violations this year and sent 11 settlements, 16 dismissals, and 26 Find, Fix, Tracks (FFTs) to NERC. SPP RE and the other REs have implemented a pilot program for the new standardized Audit Lifecycle Template, and a standardized auditor handbook is under development and is expected to be rolled out in September. FERC postponed implementation of the Bulk Electric System definition until July 2014. The semi-annual Facility Ratings Alert reports are due from entities July 31. The number of regional system events is dropping, which is a good qualitative indicator of improvements brought about by the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program. There have been eight regional events in 2013 so far, but only two were categorized as Category 1 events.

Regional Tariff Working Group: SPP staff updated the RTWG on the ATSS-BCP's new completion requirements. The group was briefed on changes in BPR-035 and BPR-036, and updated on the Credit Stack Analysis. The RTWG approved tariff revisions related to the queue-clearing process; the Open Access Transmission Tariff's (OATT's) Attachment W (Grandfathered Agreements); and interregional transmission coordination between transmission providers and the SERTP. The RTWG also approved tariff revisions in eight MPRRs presented by the MWG.

Seams Steering Committee: The SSC discussed the MISO Market-to-Market proposed JOA (Joint Operating Agreement) language. SPP staff provided a presentation on the topic, and the committee will continue to review the language as well as provide comments to staff. Staff also made presentations on the May joint meeting with SPP and MISO stakeholders, and Market Flow calculation negotiations with MISO. The committee reviewed NERC Operating Committee activities, and discussed how to propose tariff revisions to the cost allocation of seams projects. SPP staff gave updates on FERC Order 1000, the 2015 ITP10 scope, and the multi-regional Congestion Management Process Working Group's work on impacts from Entergy joining MISO. The committee continued discussions on the task force and recommendations for addressing third-party pacts when identified in either a Generation Interconnection Study or an Aggregate Study.

Transmission Working Group: The TWG approved the 2013 High Priority Incremental Load Study scope; endorsed the 2013 ITP20 report as fulfilling OATT Attachment O requirements; approved two generation waiver requests for the 2014 ITPNT (Near Term) assessment; and approved modifications to the 2014 ITPNT Scope. The TWG also debated and approved the inclusion 2011 AGP1 during the solution phase of the 2014 ITPNT.

Other Meetings

Credit Practices Working Group

[Generation Working Group](#)

[Operating Reliability Working Group](#)

[System Protection and Control Working Group](#)

July Meetings

July 8 – Operations Training Working Group

July 9 – Project Cost Working Group

July 9 – SPP Wind Workshop

July 10 – Cost Allocation Working Group

July 11 – Economic Studies Working Group

July 11-12 – Finance Committee

July 12 – Generation Working Group

July 16-17 – Markets and Operations Policy Committee

July 18 – Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee

July 18 – Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group

July 18 – Strategic Planning Committee

July 24 – Transmission Working Group

July 24-25 – Market Working Group

July 25 – Regional Tariff Working Group

July 29 – Regional State Committee

July 29 – SPP Regional Entity Trustees

July 30 – Board of Directors-Members Committee

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](#)