

# The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



January 2014

[Integrated Marketplace Update](#)  
[December Meeting Summaries](#)  
[Other Meetings](#)  
[January Meetings](#)

## Marketplace Update: Extended maintenance window, deployment tests

- The Integrated Marketplace program has revised a planned 24-day system outage as an “extended maintenance window” February 5-21. All Marketplace systems will be available 8-9 a.m. (Central) each day during that period, but intermittent maintenance outside that time frame could lead to system outages. Market participants (MPs) are encouraged to make use of the time by submitting bids and offers during the 8-9 a.m. window and to continue normal testing.
- SPP has added a final Integrated Deployment Test (IDT) February 28 to occur four hours before Marketplace Go Live. This will allow staff to work with members to correct any real-time issues before midnight and ensure compliance under SPP’s updated tariff. SPP has completed nine of 16 IDTs with no major problems reported. The IDTs test SPP’s ability to dispatch registered resources in real-time as the Marketplace’s [Balancing Authority](#).
- SPP has successfully completed its first ARR (Annual Revenue Rights) Allocation and TCR (Transmission Congestion Rights) Auction. The November ARR allocation resulted in 186 gigawatts of ARRs being disbursed to eligible MPs. The bulk of asset-owning MPs participated, which resulted in good volume. The TCR Market has been live since October.
- SPP’s Integrated Test Environment (ITE) will open February 1 to all MPs (January 15 for new MPs). The shared test environment will be used to onboard new SPP MPs and for other MPs who want to test their systems (SPP will test in the environment as feasible). The ITE will be supported during business hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m., Central) through the [Request Management System](#).

## December Meeting Summaries

**[Board of Directors/Members Committee:](#)** The Board of Directors approved Tariff Revision Request 115, documenting frequently constrained areas (FCAs) for the [Integrated Marketplace’s](#) implementation, and approved modifications to Notice to Construct (NTC) 200162. The group’s annual organizational effectiveness review analyzed survey assessments of SPP organizational groups, the Board of Directors, the Regional Entity, stakeholder satisfaction, and employee engagement.

**[Business Practices Working Group:](#)** The BPWG dealt primarily with two new practices in accordance with [FERC Order 1000](#). The group reviewed and approved two Business Practice Revisions dealing with tariff administration automation, and two addressing consolidating planning projects. All six items are scheduled to be presented to the Markets and Operations Policy Committee in January.

**[Change Working Group:](#)** SPP staff updated the CWG on the Marketplace’s remaining systems releases, known issues, workarounds, and impacts on a planned system freeze. The CWG discussed Marketplace test environments, and accepted a staff recommendation to test three scenarios in lower environments instead of using existing operating days. Staff also briefed the group on Market Trials results, expectations for Go Live, the Market Monitoring Data Depository, and the Transmission Congestion Rights Market’s initial auctions and allocations. Finally, the CWG discussed the annual working group survey results.

**[Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee:](#)** The CBASC is waiting on documentation from the [SPP Regional Entity](#) and [Midwest Reliability Organization](#) identifying the legacy Balancing Authorities’ (EIS Market BAs) requirements during the Marketplace’s post-Go Live reversion period. The committee is working with the Market Trials Review Group to provide input to the planning guides and cutover plans for the Marketplace’s March 1 go-live date. The CBASC is also considering options for its long-term viability and how it will move forward after the Marketplace’s implementation.

**[Credit Practices Working Group:](#)** The CPWG voted unanimously to revise SPP’s credit policy to accommodate federal power administrations within the Integrated Marketplace.

**[Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group:](#)** The CIPWG met at SPP’s Corporate Campus in Little Rock, and was briefed on the recent NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee meeting. The group

also discussed SPP's strategic planning efforts; regional participation in NERC's [GridEx II](#); CIP Version 5; and was updated by local FBI and Department of Homeland Security agents.

**Finance Committee:** The committee authorized the general terms under which SPP will issue \$70 million in term debt during 2014, and approved engaging an investment manager to perform the fiduciary duties around managing the SPP Retirement Plan's assets. The committee also met with Price Waterhouse Coopers auditors to review a report on SPP's controls; the audit was unqualified.

**Markets and Operations Policy Committee:** The MOPC held a conference call to deal with two issues: approving TRR 115 to document the FCAs as required for Integrated Marketplace implementation; and approving the addition of a substation to NTC 200162.

**Market Working Group:** The MWG focused on reviewing and approving the Marketplace Protocol Revision Requests (MPRRs) to be included for consideration by MOPC in January. Priority was given to MPRRs with protocol clarifications necessary for Marketplace Go Live and those that will be filed with FERC shortly after the Marketplace's implementation, but before the April MOPC meeting. SPP's Market Monitoring Unit briefed the group on market-manipulation strategies recently disclosed in a Stipulation and Consent Agreement between FERC's Office of Enforcement and a MISO/California ISO MP. The MWG discussed potential similar areas of manipulation exposure in the Marketplace's design, and how that exposure could be mitigated going forward.

**Oversight Committee:** The committee heard activity reports from Internal Audit, Market Monitoring, and Compliance during its regular quarterly meeting. The group also discussed its role in considering any conflicts with FERC Order 1000.

**Seams Steering Committee:** The SSC reviewed a TRR that outlines a methodology for allocating seams-project costs. The committee was updated on the status of the SPP-MISO Joint Operating Agreement, which included revisions for calculating market flow. The SSC reviewed MISO's Marginal Zone methodology for calculating market flow and the MISO South's integration status. The SPP-MISO Coordinated System Plan study will start in January; monthly updates will be provided to the SSC. SPP staff also updated the SSC on enhancements to the [Integrated Transmission Planning](#) process that will increase the opportunities for beneficial seams projects to be identified and approved.

## Other Meetings

**Cost Allocation Working Group**

**Economic Studies Working Group**

**Generation Working Group**

**Operating Reliability Working Group**

**Operations Training Working Group**

**Project Cost Working Group**

**Regional Tariff Working Group**

**Transmission Working Group**

## January Meetings

January 7 – Project Cost Working Group

January 8 – Cost Allocation Working Group

January 9 – Seams Steering Committee

January 10 – Finance Committee

January 14-15 – Markets and Operations Policy Committee

January 16 – Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee

January 16 – Credit Practices Working Group

January 16 – Economic Studies Working Group

January 16 – Strategic Planning Committee

January 17 – Settlements User Group

January 21 – Human Resources Committee

January 21-22 – Market Working Group

January 22 – Transmission Working Group

January 22-23 – Change Working Group  
January 23 – Regional Tariff Working Group  
January 24 – Generation Working Group  
January 27 – Regional Entity Trustees  
January 27 – Regional State Committee  
January 28 – Board of Directors-Members Committee  
January 29 – Business Practices Working Group

**February Meetings**

February 3 – Operations Training Working Group  
February 4 – Seams Steering Committee

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For more information about a group, please visit [SPP.org](http://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](#)