

The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



March 2014

[Integrated Marketplace Update](#)

[February Meeting Summaries](#)

[Other Meetings](#)

[March Meetings](#)

SPP brings Integrated Marketplace online and on time

SPP successfully implemented its [Integrated Marketplace](#) on schedule March 1 – with the system remaining protocol-compliant despite severe cold weather, fuel constraints, and other adverse conditions – to become the first RTO to design, build, and deliver a day-ahead market on time and on budget. The Integrated Marketplace is expected to yield up to \$100 million in annual net benefits to the SPP RTO region. [Read the full press release.](#)

Marketplace Update: FERC approval, NERC certification, Phase II

- The [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#) (FERC) [issued an order](#) February 26 accepting SPP's Dec. 27, 2013 compliance filing containing SPP's certification of readiness to operate the Integrated Marketplace. The commission also found SPP has received the required North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) certification to operate as a Balancing Authority (BA), effective March 1. FERC approved the start-up and operation of the Integrated Marketplace, effective March 1.
- [NERC](#) officially certified the SPP BA as capable of "reliably operating as a BA" February 14. The certification followed a November on-site evaluation by a FERC certification team. The team based its evaluation upon SPP having the necessary tools, processes, training, procedures, and personnel to operate reliably as a BA.
- Work has already begun on the Integrated Marketplace's Phase II program, which will implement FERC-mandated and other post-Go Live enhancements to the Marketplace by March 1, 2015. The Phase II project will address FERC Order 755 (regulation compensation), long-term congestion rights, and Market to Market. The program will also work to incorporate enhanced combined cycle generation and pseudo-tie outs, among other projects.

February Meeting Summaries

[Business Practices Working Group:](#) The BPWG focused on outstanding Markets and Operations Policy Committee action items and issues related to FERC Order 1000. Work continued on the new Aggregate Transmission Service Study and Generator Interconnection Agreement improvements, and the group provided input on the 2014 SPP Strategic Plan.

[Change Working Group:](#) The CWG was briefed on the Integrated Marketplace's preparations for Go Live, the Marketplace reversion plan and final regulatory filings, and the Phase II post-Go Live deferral and enhancement work. The group discussed Marketplace Protocol Revision Request 80's (Out of Merit Energy Make Whole Payments) impact assessment and provided input to SPP's 2014 Strategic Plan. The CWG also facilitated a February 26 Joint Working Group meeting, during which members were updated on final go-live preparations, regulation priorities for Go Live, and reliability unit commitment headroom during the transition to the Integrated Marketplace.

[Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee:](#) The CBASC processed updates and closed last-minute gaps in its readiness efforts leading to the SPP Balancing Authority's implementation. The CBASC was critical in gaining North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) recognition of SPP's ability to register and perform NERC BA functions on March 1; the committee is now considering its long-term relationship and options. According to its charter, the CBASC will likely have accomplished all of its original goals by March 1, and is contemplating what shape its future role would take. The group is focused on leveraging the CBASC members' experience and expertise on BA implementation.

[Corporate Governance Committee:](#) The committee is recommending Jake Langthorn (OG&E) to fill a Strategic Planning Committee vacancy and Kelly Walters (Empire District) to fill a Human Resources Committee vacancy; both openings resulted from Mike Palmer's (Empire District) retirement. The group also voted to recommend Gerry Burrows to a new term on the SPP RE Trustees, and Josh Martin and Larry

Altenbaumer to new terms on the Board of Directors. The committee discussed certain changes to the Bylaws and Membership Agreement proposed to facilitate the [Integrated System](#) entities (Western Area Power Administration's [Upper Great Plains Region](#), [Basin Electric Power Cooperative](#), and [Heartland Consumers Power District](#)) joining SPP. These changes will be presented at the April Board of Directors meeting.

[Economic Studies Working Group:](#) The ESGW approved the 2015 Integrated Transmission Plan (ITP) 10-Year Assessment benchmarking and hurdle rates. The group is still working on the 2015 ITP10's model approval and the 2015 ITP10 metrics.

[Market Working Group:](#) The MWG reviewed and approved tariff and protocol changes for the final Integrated Marketplace compliance filing with FERC. The group also discussed a new proposed day-ahead must-offer design in response to a MOPC action item to consider must-offer provisions for designated resources. SPP's [Market Monitoring Unit](#) also delivered a final EIS Market update to the MWG.

[Operations Training Working Group:](#) The OTWG is preparing for the first (of five) System Operations Conference this year ([March 17-20 in Little Rock](#)) and for Integrated Marketplace Phase II training.

[Project Cost Working Group:](#) The PCWG approved a change to SPP Business Practice Revision (BPR) 7060 that would allow qualified projects originating out of the Aggregate Study and Delivery Point Addition processes to receive Notifications to Construct with Conditions (NTC-Cs). The revision also defines parameters for all NTC-C projects that originate from planning processes not considered part of the ITP process. The group conducted a brainstorming session on PCWG-related issues to be considered for the 2014 Strategic Plan. The PCWG reviewed and updated resource documentation under its purview, including the Study Estimate Design Guide and environmental resource list.

[System Protection & Control Working Group:](#) The SPCWG reviewed a special protection scheme, misoperations statistics, and revisions to a spreadsheet list of recommended changes to the SPP Criteria. The group is reviewing misoperations data to identify common causes and measures to reduce the chance of reoccurrence; it will identify detailed causes for communications-related misoperations and providing "lessons learned" information and other recommendations to SPP members. The SPCWG is also looking at the current practices of updating short-circuit cases as part of the Model Development Working Group model-building process.

[Transmission Working Group:](#) The TWG approved a Criteria Revision Request, the newly formed TPL Task Force's scope, and a sponsored upgrade to a transformer. The group approved methodologies to identify generation outlet facilities and consolidating reliability projects. The TWG also discussed the merits of double circuit-capable transmission, reliability limits trigger for Notifications to Construct, BPR 050, and how to handle facility de-ratings in the ITP process.

Other Meetings

[Cost Allocation Working Group](#)

[Finance Committee](#)

[Generation Working Group](#)

[Operating Reliability Working Group](#)

[Regional Tariff Working Group](#)

[Seams Steering Committee](#)

March Meetings

March 6 – Operating Reliability Working Group

March 7 – Finance Committee

March 11 – Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group

March 11 – Project Cost Working Group

March 12 – Transmission Working Group

March 13 – Economic Studies Working Group

March 13 – Settlements User Group

March 17-20 – SPP System Operations Conference

March 18-19 – Market Working Group

March 19-20 – Change Working Group

March 20 – Consolidated Balancing Authority Steering Committee

March 20 – Operations Training Working Group

March 20 – Oversight Committee

March 26 – Business Practices Working Group

March 26-27 – Regional Tariff Working Group

March 28 – Generation Working Group

April Meetings

April 1 – Finance Committee

April 1 – Seams Steering Committee

April 2 – Cost Allocation Working Group

April 3 – Operating Reliability Working Group

April 7 – Operations Training 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](#)

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