
The Org Report

A monthly summary of organizational group activities.



April 2015

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NERC completes Reliability Assurance Initiative; NAESB-FERC workshop

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has completed its yearlong Reliability Assurance Initiative (RAI), which aligns NERC standards and compliance processes to ensure its activities and industry resources are focused on critical reliability issues. The RAI assessed NERC standards, the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, and relationships between NERC and the Regional Entities. The initiative's Reliability Based Compliance Monitoring Enforcement embodies many of the RAI-identified changes. Registered entities will see changes during the next few months to compliance audits and registration that will better align their resources to mitigating their specific Bulk Electric System reliability risks.

Members of the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) will be participating in a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Technical Workshop on April 21 to discuss development of business practices for calculating Available Transfer Capability. These are primarily the former NERC "MOD" series of standards that NERC identified as not directly relevant for reliability, and more suited as business practices. NAESB has spent about a year transforming several of the former NERC "MOD" standards into NAESB business practices.

March Meeting Summaries

Business Practices Working Group: The BPWG discussed MOPC Action Item 206, which deals with Limited Generator Interconnection operations and performed an initial review of business practices that relate to transmission service redispatch options. The group will review Business Practice Revision (BPR) 059 (FERC Order 1000 Competitive Upgrade Request for Proposal Issuance) before its April presentation to the Markets and Operations Policy Committee (MOPC).

Change Working Group: The CWG was briefed on SPP's Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Version 5 Readiness Program and upcoming markets and settlements system releases. The group discussed the revision-request process and modifications to the change-notification process. Staff also updated the CWG on Project Pinnacle's successful implementation and testing approach for the Integrated Systems' integration.

Cost Allocation Working Group: The CAWG reviewed the Project Tracking Report's latest version; the Integrated Transmission Planning (ITP) 10-Year Assessment Renewable Survey process improvements and policy issues; discussed SPP bylaws on Regional State Committee (RSC) authority and the RSC bylaws related to cost allocation and "bright line." The group was also updated on the FERC Order 1000 Interregional Analysis, the Regional Allocation Review Task Force, and the Capacity Margin Task Force efforts.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group: The CIPWG was briefed on the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Committee's programs and updated by the CIP Version 5 Transition Users Group. The group was also briefed on the plans to organize regional activities for NERC's Grid Exercise (GridExIII) in November and discussed NERC Standard TOP-003-3.

Economic Studies Working Group: The ESWG is currently developing potential futures for the 2017 ITP10, reviewing the data inputs, and discussing other assumptions to be used in that study. The group is also working on improvements to the ITP studies' resource expansion and siting methodologies.

Market Working Group: The MWG approved three Marketplace Protocol Revision Requests (MPRRs), including a clarifying MPRR on the Integrated System's (IS) Federal Service Exemption (FSE) rules and an MPRR to add a short-term Reliability Unit Commitment process to the Integrated Marketplace's design. The group also continued discussion on the MOPC directive to develop interim and long-term approaches for redesigning the Marketplace mitigation process. The MWG reviewed and rejected the Strike Team's interim approach in Revision Request 69 and voted to recommend MPRR 197 as a mitigation approach.

Model Development Working Group: The MDWG finalized the 2015 Series MDWG Powerflow models, and decided to use the existing 2025 summer model (with minor updates) for the ITP10 study and to add the 2016 summer model to the 2015 Series MDWG Short Circuit model set.

Operations Training Working Group: The OTWG reviewed its successful March System Operations Conference (SOC), and encourages all entities to timely process SOC withdrawals and substitutions. The group discussed updates in the NERC Continuing Education Program Manual v4.3 and strategies for complying with NERC standard PER-005-2's requirements and designation of operations support personnel.

Oversight Committee: SPP staff delivered quarterly compliance, internal audit, and market-monitoring reports; it also briefed the committee on the 2015 Audit Plan and FERC Order 1000 progress. The OC also discussed the Looking Forward Report.

Seams Steering Committee: SPP staff briefed the SCC on the first three days of SPP-MISO market-to-market operations (all systems and processes operated as expected, and went online on time). SPP legal staff provided an overview of FERC's response to SPP's Interregional Order 1000 compliance filing for the SPP-MISO seam. SPP has a 60-day compliance deadline, but SPP and MISO are considering an extension request. SPP also updated the SSC on the ongoing Coordinated System Plan study with MISO.

Regional State Committee: The RSC discussed three recommendations brought forward by the Strategic Planning Committee Task Force on New Members before determining proposed changes will be taken before MOPC. The committee also reviewed progress on its 2015 goals, topics for its upcoming education retreat, and discussed how cost allocation and the highway/byway methodology would apply to the IS entities.

Transmission Working Group: The TWG approved many items for the April MOPC agenda, including the 2016 ITP Near-Term scope; BPR 59; Economic Studies Working Group-suggested improvements to the ITP manual; and a charter revision updating its scope of activities and increasing the membership limit. The group also approved two scope documents to guide SPP staff and its members on the transmission planning (TPL) assessments; SPP and members are responsible for complying with NERC's new TPL-001-4 requirement.

Other Meetings

Generation Working Group

Operating Reliability Working Group

Project Cost Working Group

Regional Compliance Working Group

Regional Tariff Working Group

Strategic Planning Committee

April Meetings

- April 7 – Cost Allocation Working Group
- April 8 – Regional Tariff Working Group
- April 14-15 – Markets and Operations Policy Committee
- April 15 – Strategic Planning Committee
- April 16 – Credit Practices Working Group
- April 16 – Settlement User Group
- April 20-23 – System Operations Conference
- April 21-22 – Market Working Group
- April 22 – Transmission Working Group
- April 23 – Business Practices Working Group
- April 23 – Change Working Group
- April 23 – Operations Training Working Group
- April 27 – Regional Entity Trustees
- April 27 – Regional State Committee
- April 28 – Board of Directors/Members Committee Meeting
- April 30 – Regional Tariff Working Group

May Meetings

- May 5 – Wind Integration Study Summit
- May 6 – Project Cost Working Group

May 6-7 – System Protection and Control 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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