



# THE ORG REPORT

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### **Regional BlackStart Drill Training**

As discussed in Operations Training Working Group meetings, SPP recently conducted the first of two Regional BlackStart Drills and two Subregional BlackStart drills with the SPP footprint in a total blackout scenario.

One of the main goals of these drills is to offer training frequently enough to allow members to become more familiar with their systems and allow SPP operators more hands-on experience with the BlackStart plans of each entity in the SPP footprint. Over 100 people have participated in the three drills thus far, and over 1900 CE hours have been awarded through the completion of these drills. The drills have received praise from participants across the region.

The fourth drill will be conducted on May 1, with year-round training expected to continue with the hiring of a Regional Trainer whose responsibilities will be to plan and coordinate subregional and regional BlackStart drills.

### **Regional Tariff Working Group Update**

At the regular monthly meeting, the RTWG continued work on Tariff modifications and discussion of task force efforts. The group continued discussion of SPP's response to FERC Order 890 on OATT reform and agreed to continue the effort to develop a formula rate for transmission access charges. The RTWG approved modifications to Tariff Sections 28.4, 19.4, and 32.4, and approved modifications to the Tariff to implement certain Protocol Revision Requests. Additionally, the group concurred with the SPP Staff analysis and finding that there were no unintended consequences with respect to the cost allocations associated with the 2006 - 2008 projects eligible for base plan funding in the [SPP Transmission Expansion Plan](#). The RTWG approved modifications to Tariff Attachments AE and AH.

### **NERC/NAESB Update**

FERC is expected to take action soon on the Regional Entity Delegation Agreements. FERC issued Order No. 693 adopting 83 Reliability Standards for mandatory compliance beginning on June 4, 2007.

SPP and eight other ISO/RTO organizations joined the newly formed NAESB Independent Grid Operators and Planners (IGO) segment. SPP nominated Michael Desselle, VP Process Integrity, for one of the seven newly created Board seats. Desselle currently serves as the NAESB Chairman as a member of the Transmission segment.

## The Month In Review

**Business Practices Working Group, 3\14:** The BPWG reviewed proposed tariff language regarding to the use of Non-Firm NITS service and the amount that can be reserved versus the amount scheduled. The group will define the process for processing long term requests when there is competition across a DC tie.

**Compliance Committee, 3\29:** The group discussed the Regional Entity filing and its impact on SPP, and approved the Compliance Department's budget for submission to NERC. Special recognition was given to those member companies that were 100% in compliance with NERC standards for 2006: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives; Empire District; City of Independence; City of Lafayette; Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority; Southwestern Power Administration; West Plains Electric; Westar; City of Yazoo City; and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative. The SPP Reliability Coordinator also achieved 100% compliance in 2006.

**Cost Allocation Working Group, 3\28:** The CAWG discussed cost allocation impacts for 2006 Base Plan Upgrades and found no unintended consequences. The need for waiver requests by AECC and OMPA, in accordance with Attachment J of the tariff for Base Plan funding, were presented. SPP recommended that the CAWG approve the waivers. The group also discussed SPP Draft Economic Portfolio projects and benefit cost qualifications. ITC Great Plains provided an economic cost recovery presentation.

**Market Working Group, 4\3-5:** The MWG approved the following PRRs: PRR041b (Excess/Deficit Generation), PRR145 (CAT/IDC Comparability), and PRR 151 (CAT Timing Specifications). At the June SPC retreat, this group will present a high-level Ancillary Services design.

**Operating Reliability Working Group, 3\7-8:** There was a roundtable discussion on EIS Market experience to date, with all comments being favorable. All members reported overall satisfaction with the transition to the market from a transmission operations perspective. The ORWG also discussed market reliability issues and reviewed a number of PRRs, as well as the Sunflower/West Plains consolidation. Mike Crouch of WFEC is retiring and will be missed by the ORWG.

**Operations Training Working Group, 3\5:** Along with the BlackStart drills, the OTWG discussed pricing for Regional Training, the Spring System Operations Conference, and the NERC Training Standard update.

**Regional State Committee, 3\1:** At this special meeting, the RSC received an update on Economic Upgrade alternatives, approved an OG&E waiver request for their Sentinel Wind Farm, and approved the retention of the auditor for the RSC 2006 records. The group discussed possible modifications to the RSC bylaws and travel policy.

This is a summary of recent SPP organizational group meetings. For complete minutes of a particular group meeting, please visit [www.spp.org](http://www.spp.org) and select that committee on the Committees and Groups page. Click on the "documents" folder in the left panel to view meeting minutes.

Please contact [Laura Norris](#) in the Communications Department with questions or comments about The Org Report.

[SPP Calendar](#)