

Enhanced Curtailment Calculator Working Group Meeting

September 17, 2021
Teleconference

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. Ashley Stringer/Kathee Downey to request approval of Critical Mappings CO to WIRCEC on 9/21.
2. Ashley Stringer (SPP) will email the original competing path CO request to the group for review.
 - a. Brian Nolan (OATI) will request a dubbed version of each CO going forward.
3. OATI will provide a root cause and mitigation response to the recent ECC issues. Once available, the group will discuss additional alarming that may be needed.
 - a. Zea Flores (WAPA) to provide event numbers and time points for suspicious step 4 events to Ashley Stringer. Stringer will forward to OATI for further investigation.
4. Ashley Stringer (SPP) to provide an update to Steve Ashbaker (WECC) on the ECC ransomware discussion.

ECCWG MEETING

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MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTIONS

Ashley Stringer (SPP) called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. CDT. The following participants were in attendance:

ECCWG:

Keith Carman (TSGT)

Zea Flores (WAPA)

Robin Chung (BPA)

Kathee Downey (PAC)

Asher Steed (BC RC)

Kokou Agbassekou (CAISO)

Kevin Pera (XCEL)

Quorum was established.

Others in attendance:

Ashley Stringer (SPP)

Brian Nolan (OATI)

Jay Jones (CAISO)

Chris Bultsma (WAPA)

Brett Gruesner (XCEL)

Jeremy West (TSGT)

Shane Ripley (BPA)

Igor Kormaz (TSGT)

Steve Szablya (Xcel)

Richard Tran (SPP)

Kendall White (SPP)

Scott Brown (SPP)

Steve Ashbaker (WECC)

Sam High (SPP)

Kate Winston

AGENDA ITEM 2 – CHANGE ORDER UPDATES

The group reviewed three outstanding Change Orders.

Critical mappings:

The group requested a quote from OATI regarding critical mappings. The ECC tool should be enhanced to alert the Western Interconnection Model Administrator (currently RC West) when critical devices lose its mapping such that it impacts shift factor calculation. The group reviewed the price and voted to approve the CO. Ashley Stringer (SPP) will take it to the WIRCEC for final approval on the 9/21 meeting.

Competing Path:

OATI has provided a quote for this CO. The ECCWG was not comfortable at taking a vote to approve this CO at this time. Ashley Stringer (SPP) will email the original CO request to the group for review. Brian Nolan (SPP) will request a dubbed version of each CO be sent out that can be shared with the group going forward.

Alternative Relief:

A proposed CO has been drafted and the group has asked CAISO to request a quote from OATI. This is still pending at OATI but should be available soon.

In previous meetings, the group discussed how to communicate to ECC users after Production updates. OATI has created release notes to come to the tool instead of dependent on an email. Brian Nolan (OATI) will see if a notification can be setup, potentially even a day ahead, to notify users of a release into Production.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – ECC ISSUES FOR STEP 4

SPP RC was notified of an issue with step 4 events in August. A critical ticket was submitted to OATI and Brian Nolan (OATI) provided an update to the group.

On 8/27/21, a TDF issue prevented accurate step 4 events. According to OATI, the issue has an interim fix and a permanent mitigation is still ongoing. The issue stemmed from duplicate records being entered into one of the tables of mapping of generators to BAs/LBAs. Generators were being mapped to both and creating duplicate records. This caused a timeout because the read of data was taking too long. There are two places injecting records into the file for each model update. OATI can clear this out manually (interim fix) but are still working on a permanent solution.

On 8/31/21, OATI was notified by several users of the inability to log into ECC. The source of issue stemmed from another application on the server had an automated job that contended with ECC application and unavailability of one of the tables used for logging in. OATI has implemented a permanent solution to fix the issue. The issue dealt with the timing of a manual process, performed twice a year. The permanent solution is automated.

CAISO has requested a formal response from OATI with root cause and mitigation steps. OATI is still working on that effort. Once that is available, we will discuss at a future meeting. These issues may require additional alarming on OATI and/or ECC's end.

Zea Flores (WAPA) requested that OATI verifying the Step 4 events issued by WAPA worked as expected. Flores will send the event numbers and time points to Ashley Stringer (SPP) to forward to OATI for investigation.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – RANSOMWARE DISCUSSION

Steve Ashbaker (WECC) requested a discussion regarding ransomware and the ECC. At the last OC meeting, there was an update on Ransomware and phishing attacks from a member of the E-ISASC. During that presentation, Raymond Vojdani (WAPA) brought up the concern about WECC tools (WIT and ECC) and what was WECC doing to address possible attacks. Since WECC does not administer or hold the contracts for the WIT or ECC, Ashbaker felt the initial discussion should start at the respective tool groups (i.e. ECCWG and WITWG).

Brian Nolan (OATI) was able to give the group an update on the multiple layers of defense with all OATI applications. There is an active/active replication between their two data centers. If issues occur in only one data center, they work off the other center with no loss. If it affects both sites, OATI has weekly full backups and minimal daily differentials of data. Backup systems are separate from production systems.

Ashbaker had to leave the call early. Ashley Stringer (SPP) will provide an update to Steve via email.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

See Page 1.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – FUTURE MEETINGS

October 15, 2021	9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (CDT)	Teleconference
November 12, 2021	9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (CDT)	Teleconference

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m. CDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Stringer

Sr. Ops Quality Control Specialist