

JOINT CCPG-SSPG-SWAT Meeting

August 17, 2011

8:30am to 5:00 pm (MDT)

**Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
1100 West 116th Ave, Westminster, Colorado
Board/Multi-Purpose Conference Room (Main Floor)**

PICTURE ID REQUIRED FOR SECURITY

Phone Bridge #: 800-444-2801

Conference Code: 4984346

1. Introductions, Agenda Review & Opening Comments – Tami Anderson

Ms. Anderson welcomed everyone in attendance and started the WestConnect Joint SPG meeting with meeting logistics information. After the opening comments, meeting attendees in the room and on the phone introduced themselves. The attendance list is attached at the end of these notes.

2. WestConnect Update

a. Regional Planning Update – Ron Belval

Mr. Belval, WestConnect (WC) Planning Management Committee (PMC) Chair, presented the Regional Planning Update. He reviewed the WestConnect purpose, structure, planning cycle, and the process for the WC 10-year Transmission Plan development which is developed every year.

WC consists of CCPG/SWAT/SSPG subregional planning groups. The process for utilities and sponsors to enter their projects into the Transmission Plan Management (TPM) database starts toward the end of the 2011. The Annual Planning Workshop will be held in November to review the utilities plans.

Regional planning is occurring voluntarily. The projects are to enhance reliability, provide economic opportunities, and meet public policy. Opportunities are given throughout the bottom-up planning processes for stakeholder input. Operational issues are also considered to provide solutions to integrate renewable resources.

Mr. Belval's full presentation is located at: [Regional Planning Update presentation](#)

b. Initiatives – Charlie Reinhold

Mr. Reinhold, WC Project Manager, presented an overview of the WC Activities. The discussion topics Mr. Reinhold covered included the WestConnect Overview & Membership, Regional Pricing Experiment, Joint Initiatives, Virtual Control Area including work group activities and western wind & solar integration study, and Energy Imbalance Service Work Group.

As an overview, the WestConnect Executed Restated MOU among Transmission Owners in the Western Grid was effective January, 2007. The purposes of WestConnect includes continuing investigation of

feasibility of cost-effective wholesale market enhancements, working cooperatively with other Western Grid Organizations and market participants, and addressing seams issues in appropriate forums.

The WestConnect accomplishments include the annual ATC workshop, wesTTrans common oasis developed by OATI, Subregional Planning, WECC seams issues process, development of Annual WestConnect Transmission Plan and Planning Report, developed regional pro forma conditional firm service business practice, and the WestConnect regional pricing experiment.

Mr. Reinhold's full presentation is located at: [WestConnect Update - Initiatives](#)

c. Annual Planning Meeting – Tami Anderson

Ms. Anderson, WC Planning Project Manager (MAPPCOR), notified the attendees that the 2011 Annual Planning Workshop is planned for November 16th at the SRP facility PERA Club in Tempe, AZ. The Planning Workshop is the kickoff data gathering meeting for the WC 10-year Transmission Plan where the Subregional planning groups give summaries of studies performed as well as each entity will share their ten year plans.

Additional tentative milestone dates in the WC 10-year plan process include:

- December 16th - data entry deadline
- January 6th - release of first draft
- February 1st – release of final draft

Also, the annual transmission planning meeting where the WC 10-year Transmission Plan is presented is planned for February 16, 2012 in Las Vegas.

Ms. Anderson's full presentation is located at: [Annual Planning Meeting](#)

d. TPM Replacement Project - Tom Kansier

Mr. Kansier, WC Planning Project Manager (MAPPCOR), presented the TPM Replacement Project. The TPM database is the portal where transmission providers enter projects to be included in the WC 10-year Transmission Plan. It was recommended to the PMC that the TPM application be replaced.

MAPPCOR developed the Transmission Plan Project List (TPPL) Workbook which will replace the TPM application. The TPPL is an Excel program which will be retrieved from a secured location on the WestConnect website. This is not available yet but should be ready soon. Access to the TPPL will require a password. The Master project list is now maintained by MAPPCOR. An advantage to this application is it will be easier to sort through each company's projects. There is a data entry sheet which will populate the rest of the workbook. The program will be released today with it available on the website by September 1st. Sponsor testing will occur through September 28th. The TPM will be shut down on October 1st. A final snapshot of the database will be taken and contract with the third party vendor will be canceled. A demo of the TPPL will be webcast the week of October 24th.

Mr. Kansier's full presentation is located at: [TPM Replacement Project](#)

3. Subregional Planning Group Briefings

a. CCPG – Blane Taylor

Mr. Taylor, Chair of the CCPG, presented the activities of the Colorado Coordinated Planning Group (CCPG). As an overview of the CCPG, it is a forum for joint transmission planning that is recognized by WECC. The meetings are held at the Denver TSGT Offices and are open to all interested stakeholders. The WC website is used to post meeting notices and materials. The location for the postings is under WC website-WC Transmission Planning-CCPG.

There are several studies occurring which may not be limited to actual footprint in order to address seams issues. Therefore, several Work Groups have also been formed. The Work Groups include:

- Long Range Planning Studies
- Conceptual Planning
- SB-100
- NERC Compliance (TPL Adequacy Study)
- WECC Data Coordination
- Voltage Coordination Work Group

The CCPG studies also include Subcommittee Studies (geographic), regional project study participation, and Regulatory Compliance.

Mr. Taylor also reported on the CPUC Rulemaking, Docket 10R-526E (Rule 3627). The Rule requires regulated utilities to file 10-year plans. The 10-year plan is required every other year with a 20-year plan required in the off years. The first plan is required in February, 2012. The CCPG is used as a forum for this as joint planning is required even though several non-jurisdictional utilities are not required to participate. One major requirement of this Rule is to seek out for more stakeholder input. The 10-year plans have been sent out but not a lot of stakeholder input has been received. Additional outreach efforts are being pursued.

This Rule also requires data used to perform studies be made available to stakeholders. All transmission projects greater than 100 kV are required to be reported. All stakeholder comments will be addressed. To date no comments have been received. There are public meetings in Greeley, Aurora, and Rifle are scheduled for the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Taylor's full presentation is located at: [CCPG Update](#)

b. SSPG – Brian Whalen

Mr. Whalen, Chair of the Sierra Subregional Planning Group (SSPG), was not in attendance at the meeting. Therefore, Edi Von Engeln gave a quick update of the SSPG. Two studies have been submitted to TEPPC for the TEPPC Study Plan.

c. SWAT – LeeAnn Torkelson

Ms. Torkelson, Chair of the Southwest Area Transmission (SWAT) Subregional Planning Group, presented an update on the SWAT activities. The update on SWAT included the updated SWAT Projects list (high level detail list of transmission and generation projects in SWAT updated quarterly to align with SWAT meetings) and a review of the SWAT Project Map (location of the SWAT projects on the SWAT Projects list). Ms. Torkelson also reported that the Renewable Energy Transmission (RET or

RTTF) committee was dissolved since it completed its tasks under the ACC order. During discussions on what to do with RET, it was determined there was some value in forming an advisory group to update SWAT membership on transmission planning activities occurring in the West. The newly formed Advisory Work Group (AWG) intends to identify and advise on seams issues between SWAT subcommittees or between SWAT and other SPGs.

Ms. Torkelson also gave SWAT Committee updates for CRT, CATS, SATS, NM, Short Circuit Work Group, Transmission Corridor Work Group (Blog available on WC website), Advisory Work Group, and the Eldorado Valley Study Group (EVSG).

Ms. Torkelson's full presentation is located at: [SWAT Update](#)

4. WECC TEPPC and SCG Update on Interconnection Wide Planning – Susan Henderson and Brad Nickell

Mr. Nickell, WECC, presented the WECC and TEPPC Update. As part of the presentation, Mr. Nickell reviewed the Regional Transmission Expansion Planning (RTEP) process. The RTEP is funded by the ARRA through the DOE and managed by TEPPC. The funding is through the stimulus plan until the government funding runs out then the funding is expected to be covered by WECC members.

The deliverables for the RTEP include a 10-year plan produced in September 2011 and the 10-year and 20-year plans produced in September 2013. The WECC 10-year plan's objective is to provide sufficient level of detail to inform decision-making processes regarding where and when to build new transmission. There have been many inputs into the ten year plan. Stakeholder Input/Review, TEPPC (production cost), public policy, environmental and water, generation and load assumptions, reliability analysis, etc. Every single entity is represented by a subregional transmission planning group with a total of 9 subregional planning groups including California and British Columbia.

The draft 10-year plan has been released for public review and has been approved by the TEPPC on 8/10/11 with the following sections: Summary, 2019 Study report, 2020 study report, EDTF Report, WECC path reports. The 100-page plan summary is available on the WECC website. The complete report will be submitted to DOE in Sept. 2011 in electronic format.

Ms. Henderson, XCEL, presented the Scenario Planning Steering Group (SPSG) Update. Ms. Henderson reviewed the SPSG membership and stated that the new technical consultant assisting the SPSG is Reos. Ms. Henderson reviewed the Environmental Data Taskforce (EDTF) activities and the technical consultant working with the EDTF is ICF International. The purpose of the EDTF is to incorporate environmental and cultural considerations into the transmission planning process. The report was approved by the SPSG on May 24, 2011. The report included several recommendations.

Also, an Ad-hoc group, SPG Coordination Group (SCG) was formed to foster coordination between SPGs and assist WECC with interconnection wide planning. The SCG discuss seams issues and help TEPPC to devise the Foundational Projects List. The list formerly known as "Foundational" has been replaced by the "Common Case Transmission Assumptions List", CCTA. Only considering 345 and 500-kV transmission line with only a few 230-kV transmission lines allowed into the CCTA. Screening

criteria developed for projects to help take subjectivity out of which projects are selected. No discussion was undertaken to see impacts of not building some of the foundational projects of the case.

Ms. Henderson and Mr. Nickell's full presentation is located at: [WECC TEPPC Update on Interconnection Wide Planning](#) (it should be noted that the CCTA was identified as the CCTIA in the presentation, but verbally at the meeting was announced it was changed to CCTA at the 8/16 SCG meeting).

5. TTC/ATC for WestConnect Footprint – Tami Anderson

Ms. Anderson presented the TTC/ATC Workshop update for the WC Footprint. This presentation is an update of the WC Transmission Owner's Path component (TTC, TRM, CBM, and ATC) information that was updated and compiled by Ms. Anderson. The presentation is organized by Subregional planning groups/Company/Existing Paths/Additions and Changes to Paths. The ATC for individual paths is included in the presentation and was reviewed with the stakeholders.

Ms. Anderson's full presentation is located at: [TTC/ATC for WestConnect footprint](#)

6. Western Interstate Energy Board Update – Steve Ellenbecker

Mr. Ellenbecker, WIEB, presented the WIEB Update. The presentation outlined key milestones of Western Transmission Planning, SPSC structure and tasks, SPSC activities: TEPPC study requests, DSM input, comments on WECC's 10-year plan, foundational transmission projects, Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) – next steps and what we need to know, and FERC Order 1000.

The SPSC structure is staffed by the WIEB and includes 11 Governors' appointees, 12 PUC Commissioners, 2 Canadian Province representatives plus WSWC and WGWC representatives. The SPSC tasks include providing input into regional transmission planning, improving the efficient use of the existing grid, and enabling the integrating of large amounts of variable generation.

During the FERC Order 1000 discussion, Mr. Ellenbecker encouraged participation by the SPGs and WECC. There are still several questions to be answered about FERC Order 1000. One of the questions is whether there will be major shifts in planning roles between SPGs and WECC. The major agenda topic will be the FERC Order 1000 at the CREPC/SPSC meeting October 26-27 in Monterey, CA.

Mr. Ellenbecker's full presentation is located at: [Western Interstate Energy Board Update](#)

7. Subregional planning in the Western Interconnect – Panel Session

Moderator: Bob Easton

Panelists:

- Northern Tier Transmission Group – John Leland
- Columbia Grid Planning– Jeff Miller
- California Transmission Planning Group - Craig Cameron
- WestConnect – Bob Easton

Each of the panelists gave a presentation on the overview of their subregional planning group. In addition, the presentations covered the subregional planning groups' background, objective, principles,

organization/membership/committees, stakeholder involvement, planning cycles. After the presentations, there was a question and answer session with the panel for the attendees of the meeting.

Questions to the panelists included:

1. What is the advantage of State Employees included in some of the committees? The panelist responses stated the advantage is for better coordination and communication of projects.
2. Does Columbia Grid save money by having a centralized staff? Mr. Miller responded that although Columbia grid has not completed an analysis of specific dollar savings, the purpose of a centralized staff is to have a robust planning organization.
3. Mr. Cameron explained the relationship between the CTPG plan – state-wide, ISO plan-state wide, and cost allocation plan.
4. What is the region definition as defined in FERC 1000 for WestConnect? Is it the separate 3 SPGs or the full WC as a region? Mr. Easton stated the region definition needs to be figured out for WestConnect.
5. What is similar and the main differences between the SPG panel's planning processes? The biggest differences the panelists discussed included: interregional requirements - 1.interregional cost allocation is a big challenge (example working with seams on cost allocation), 2. developing a process to find cost effective plans between regions, 3. How binding is the cost allocation that was determined? Also, uncertainties with the renewable resources included which effects the input assumptions to get to a final plan is difficult. Another difference is there is confusion on what is considered as a bottoms-up approach to planning. Roll-up to a subregional plan and then there aren't problems found if the TP's have done a good job. An additional challenge discussed was selection of a plan for cost allocation – how does that project effect the other projects already included in the subregional plan – picking winners and losers is a problem. Also issue with merchant plans that play into the mix which creates a challenge.
6. Have any of the SPGs filed anything with FERC? The panelists replied that their bylaws and agreements have been filed.
7. How is the project queue managed? Some of the panelists replied by stating that this process is being reviewed and there is hope to set up an open season of cluster study process for what upgrades/new projects are best for the whole region. Also discussed the process of the generation in the queue for the cluster study process.
8. How do non-jurisdictional utilities participate? The panelists replied by stating that there are agreements set up or that participation is relied upon through the Transmission Providers. Some of the panelists stated that although at times it is challenging, the participation has been great.

Mr. Leland's full presentation is located at: [NTTG Presentation - Panel Session](#)

Mr. Miller's full presentation is located at: [Columbia Grid Presentation - Panel Session](#)

Mr. Cameron's full presentation is located at: [CTPG Presentation - Panel Session](#)

Mr. Easton's full presentation is located at: [WestConnect Presentation - Panel Session](#)

8. FERC NOI's/NOPRs – Dan Kline

Mr. Kline, XCEL, presented on the recent FERC NOPRs, NOIs, and ADs and implications of FERC Order No. 1000. The presentation reviewed the FERC Organization. The Chairman is Jon Wellinghoff and all FERC Staff report to him. On April 16, 2009, Chairman Wellinghoff announced the creation of the Office of Energy Policy and Innovation (OEPI). The OEPI was created to address environmental and energy policies. The OEPI has issued important transmission dockets, one of which is RM10-23

which became Order No. 1000 on July 21, 2011. Other important transmission dockets include RM10-11: integration of variable energy resources, RM11-26: promoting transmission investment through pricing reform, RM10-17: demand response compensation in organized wholesale markets, RM11-7: frequency regulation compensation in organized wholesale power markets, RM11-9: locational exchanges of wholesale electric power, RM11-14: analysis of horizontal market power under Federal Power Act, AD11-11: priority access to new participant funded transmission.

The FERC Order No. 1000 planning provisions were reviewed. The provisions include:

- Public utility must participate in regional planning process– “region” cannot be a single transmission provider
- Consistent with Order 890, economic studies must be conducted
- Must include public policy needs in a study assumptions
- Each region must coordinate planning with adjacent regions (Example for the current definition of regions: CCPG must coordinate with SWAT, NTTG)

The FERC Order No. 1000 cost allocation and federal (Right of first refusal) ROFR provisions were also reviewed.

Mr. Kline reviewed the FERC Order No. 1000 timeline:

- Oct 11, 2011 – 60 days after the publication of Final Rule in Federal Register
- Oct 11, 2012 – Compliance Filing – local and regional transmission planning processes regional cost allocation
- April 11, 2013 – Compliance Filing – interregional transmission coordination procedures

Mr. Kline’s full presentation is located at: [FERC NOI's/NOPRs](#)

9. State Issues

a. Colorado – Inez Dominguez

Mr. Dominguez was not able to attend the joint meeting, so, there was no Colorado update.

b. Arizona – Prem Bahl

Mr. Bahl presented the update on the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) activities. The EPS/REST Compliance Plans are located on the ACC website. Mr. Bahl also discussed recent Decisions by the ACC that are located on the ACC website. These include: Decision #72500 – Mohave Electric Cooperative, Inc; Decision #72447 – Southwest Transmission Cooperative, Inc; Decision #72231 – Tucson Electric Power Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility; Decision #72186 – SolarReserve, LLC. Mr. Bahl reviewed the Electric Energy Efficiency Standard Rules issued on August 10, 2010 and effective Jan 1, 2011. These rules are applicable to utilities with more than \$5 million annual revenue, require energy savings by 2020, standard starts at 1.25% and ramps up every year, cooperatives have 75% of requirement.

Mr. Bahl’s full presentation is located at: [Arizona State Issues - ACC](#)

c. New Mexico – Jeremy Turner

Mr. Turner presented on the New Mexico activities. The overview of this presentation included an overview of Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA), 2011 legislative update, Los Alamos National Labs Study, and RETA/GSIP Project.

The New Mexico RETA focuses on developing new transmission projects to promote renewable energy. RETA is one of 8 state-level authorities. RETA was statutorily created in 2007 by the NM legislature. RETA can plan, finance, acquire, and own transmission and storage facilities, 30% of the power on a RETA project has to be from renewable sources, has the power of eminent domain.

Mr. Turner reviewed the 2011 legislative update which included Senate Bill 60, Senate Joint Memorial 8, Senate Bill 82, House Memorial 51, House Memorial 36, Senate Bill 549. The presentation also included summaries of the Los Alamos National Labs Report and the NM Collector System Project.

Mr. Turner's full presentation is located at: [New Mexico RETA - State Issues](#)

d. Nevada – Rebecca Wagner

Ms. Wagner presented the activities of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. The State Issues Ms Wagner covered included: Nevada Renewable Energy Zones & Renewable Energy conceptual Transmission Plan, Energy Imbalance Market – PUCN Investigation, Tax Abatements – NSOE, Transmission Corridor Study – NEAC, and Valley Electric MOU with CAISO.

Ms. Wagner's full presentation is located at: [Nevada State Issues](#)

e. Wyoming – JM Shafer

Mr. Shafer presented the Wyoming State Issues. The presentation highlighted the Wyoming generation production including the fact that Wyoming is #1 in total energy produced in the U.S. Mr. Shafer presented an overview of the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority which was created in 2004 by the Wyoming Legislature. The mission of the WIA is to diversify and expand the state's economy through improvements in the transmission grid. Mr. Shafer's presentation included transmission projects under development and the permitting and siting status of transmission projects in Wyoming. The transmission projects included Gateway West, Gateway South, TransWest Express, Zephyr, Overland, Wyoming-Colorado Intertie, and High Plains Express.

Mr. Shafer's full presentation is located at: [Wyoming State Issues](#)

10. Next Joint SPG Meetings – (Westminster, Colorado at the Tri State Office).

- **August 14, 2012 - SWAT meeting**
- **August 15, 2012 – Joint CCPG-SSPG-SWAT meeting**
- **August 16, 2012 - CCPG meeting**

Attachment

Joint Meeting August 17, 2011 Attendees:

Last	First	Company
Anderson	Tami	MAPPCOR
Arnold	Paul	POWER Engineers
Bahl	Prem	Arizona Corporation Commission
Bantu	Ravi	RES Americas Inc.
Bass	Jen	Xcel Energy
Belval	Ron	Tucson Electric Power
Benson	Ian	Xcel Energy
Cameron	Craig	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Carlson	Shawn	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Carter	Jim	Logan Simpson Design
Charters	Jim	Western States Energy Solutions
Chen	Kaicheng	Western Area Power Administration
Clement	Cliff	Third Planet Wind
Collins	John	Platt River Power Authority
Corathers	Amy	Logan Simpson Design
Cox	Craig	Interwest Energy Alliance
Duane	Tom	PNM
Easton	Bob	WAPA-RMR
Ellenbecker	Steve	WIEB
Etherton	Mark	PDS Consulting
Fidrych	Jonathan	Western Area Power Administration
Gassaway	Adam	LS Power
Gearhart	Roy	Western Area Power Administration
Gonzales	Angela	NM RETA
Green	Thomas	Xcel Energy
Greene	Lynn	Lucky Corridor
Griffiths	Jared	Western Area Power Administration
Haas	Chris	SWCA Environmental
Henderson	Susan	XCEL Energy
Hickey	Lisa	Colorado Lawyers
Hirning	James	Western Area Power Administration

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Last	First	Company
Hodges-Copple	Daniel	Clean Line Energy Partners
James-King	Suzanne	3M
Johnston	Joshua	Western Area Power Administration
Kansier	Tom	MAPPCOR
Keene	Stephen	Imperial Irrigation District
Kirkpatrick	Liz	URS
Kline	Dan	Xcel Energy
Koenig	Paul	Smith Roberts Land
Lathrop	Steve	Power Engineers
Larson	Doug	WIEB
Lehr	Ron	AWEA
Leland	John	NTTG
Leland	Russel	NWE
Malone	Dennis	El Paso Electric
Miller	Jeff	Columbia Grid
Moyer	Keegan	WECC
Nickell	Brad	WECC
Olson	Mike	Western Area Power Administration
Ormond	Amanda	Western Grid Group
Patterson	Doug	Black Forest Partners
Pierson	Brad	TRC Engineers
Reinhold	Charles	WestConnect
Ruiz	Reuben	Central Arizona Project
Sanchez	Phil	WAPA – SNR (by phone)
Sandler	Vicki	AZ Independent Scheduling Administrator
Shafer	J.M.	Wyoming Infrastructure Authority
Sharma	Dharmendra	FERC (by phone)
Shelly	Grant	WIEB (by phone)
Slagle	Jim	Peak Power Engineers
Souder	Julia	Clean Line Energy Partners
Stellern	Gerry	Xcel Energy
Szot	Lisa	EGPNA
Tang	Jim	Central Arizona Project
Taylor	Blane	Tri-State

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Last	First	Company
Torkelson	LeeAnn	Salt River Project
Turner	Jeremy	New Mexico RETA
Underwood	Chris	Burns & McDonnell Engineering, Inc.
VonEngeln	Edi	NV Energy
Wagner	Rebecca	PUC of Nevada (by phone)
Waldron	Matt	MAPPCOR
Walker	Dave	Wyoming PSC
Whitaker	Jim	TRC Engineers
Willick	Lawrence	LS Power
Wingen	Wes	Black Hills Power
Wray	Tom	Southwestern Power/SunZia