

# Southwest Area Transmission Subregional Planning Group

## Meeting Notes

May 10-11, 2011

Public Service of New Mexico Downtown Offices

Albuquerque, NM

### **DAY ONE: May 10, 2011**

#### **1. Introductions, Agenda Review & Opening Comments**

SWAT members participating in the meeting either in-person or by webinar identified themselves to the group.

As part of the opening comments, LeeAnn Torkelson provided notice that all transmission projects that want to be included in the WECC TEPPC 2022 plan, need to be in the *WECC Transmission Project Information Portal* that is accessible on the WECC website:

<http://www.wecc.biz/Planning/TransmissionExpansion/Transmission/Pages/default.aspx>

LeeAnn Torkelson reviewed the agenda and re-ordered agenda item 3 (technical committee activities) to precede item 2 (project updates).

#### **2. SWAT Technical Committee Activities: Status of 2011 Work or Activities**

##### **a. Colorado River Transmission Subcommittee (CRT) – Josh Johnston**

- i. Josh Johnston reviewed CRT's 2011 activities to-date including:
  - Technical study work for the Yuma County 230kV ring circuit concept conducted by APS and reviewed by CRT;
  - Mohave and Yuma RMR studies that are targeted for completion by November 2011 to be included in the next ACC BTA; and
  - Monitoring of SMRT, NG-IV#2, and El Dorado Valley Study Group activities.
- ii. Next CRT meeting will be during June or July, exact date TBD

##### **b) Central Arizona Transmission System Subcommittee (CATS) – Jason Spitzkoff**

- i. CATS is developing 2014 & 2021 seed cases in conjunction with the SATS group. The group plans to release results for comment by November 2011.
- ii. RMR studies will use 2014 & 2021 seed cases
- iii. SRP is leading the effort to complete the 10-year snapshot
- iv. Centennial West transmission project is using CATS as its PCRG for the WECC phase rating process.

**c) El Dorado Valley Study Group –Chuck Russell**

- i. Despite lack of activity, the group shows continued interested to keep the committee active. Chuck Russell will schedule a conference call to develop a revised work scope.

**d) Southern Arizona Transmission Study Subcommittee (SATS) – Gary Trent**

- i. Gary Trent reviewed the 2011 SATS Study plan. The subcommittee has completed revision of load forecasts and development of 2011 base cases.
- ii. SATS will comply with the orders found in the 6<sup>th</sup> ACC BTA, including a review of the voltage deviations found in the 2009 SATS study report.
- iii. SATS continues to monitor the ED5-PV, SunZia, Bowie and Southline projects.
- iv. Gary Trent announced that the SWTC/TEP Second Quarter Joint Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> in Tucson, Arizona.

**e) New Mexico Subcommittee – Tom Duane**

- i. The subcommittee is evaluating a 500 kV wind collector system with 5,000 MW of capacity. There is also consideration of a 345 kV wind collector system that will have 1200-2000 MW of capacity. Both configurations are targeted to export energy through the Four Corners hub.
- ii. 2021 HS case will be used to study the wind collector system, instead of 2020 HS case.
- iii. Phase 2 of the Los Alamos study does not have funding at this time.
- iv. The next meeting will be in June or July, exact date TBD.

**f) Short Circuit Study Work Group – Kevin Salsbury**

- i. Kevin Salsbury reported that the software conversion dilemma continues. The new chairman will not assume duties until this issue is resolved. Tom Wolfe Associates has been contracted to assist, but they have not determined when a solution may be found.

**g) Transmission Corridor Work Group – Julia Souder/Chuck Russell**

- i. Julia Souder reviewed the meeting that was held with BLM on March 11, 2011. This meeting was an information-sharing effort between transmission planning activities and the land use planning activities of state and federal agencies.
- ii. A blog has been established on WestConnect.
- iii. The group discussed the possibility for SWAT to act as a cooperating agency to BLM during the Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision process. SWAT could advocate for the establishment of utility corridors in the RMPs.
- iv. A conference call is scheduled for May 26, 2011.

**h) Renewable Energy Transmission Subcommittee (RET) – LeeAnn Torkelson**

- i. LeeAnn Torkelson reviewed the completed activities of the Renewable Energy Transmission Task Force and the history of RET.
- ii. A small committee was formed to discuss a possible work scope and chairman for RET. The small committee proposed to dissolve RET as a specific work scope was not developed.
- iii. Following much discussion among the SWAT members, Tom Wray moved to dissolve RET and noted that any future work regarding renewable transmission needs can be assigned to the appropriate subcommittee and be recognized in WestConnect. The motion was seconded by Dennis Malone and approved by the present SWAT members.

**i) Formation of Advisory Working Group (AWG)**

- i. The small committee also proposed to create AWG to address seams issues between regional planning groups and investigate policy issues that may affect transmission planning.
- ii. CAISO and CTPG have already provided interest to participate in AWG.
- iii. Amanda Ormond was selected a Chairman and provided the group with a brief overview of the goals of AWG.
- iv. Membership to AWG is open to all SWAT participants and may contact Amanda Ormond to be included in AWG activities.

**3. Project Updates**

**a) Southline Transmission Project**

- i. Doug Patterson reported that the WECC peer review group concluded its initial activities on February 15, 2011
- ii. Phase 1 of the WECC 3-phase rating process will commence.
- iii. A study plan is in development and will be circulated for review, once completed. A cost recovery agreement between the project and BLM has been executed and funded.
- iv. CH2M Hill has been contracted to the project.

**b) SunZia Southwest Transmission Project**

- i. Tom Wray reported that the project achieved Phase 3 status of the WECC 3-phase rating process on March 25, 2011.

- ii. The BLM expects to issue a draft environmental impact statement for public review within the next 60 days. The public review period will last for 90 days.

**c) Bowie Power Station**

- i. Tom Wray reported that a Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permit is in the process of being renewed with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

**d) Centennial West Transmission Project**

- i. Julia Souder reported that the project development team conducted a public outreach effort in 16 cities over a 4.5 week period.
- ii. The project will impact 16 BLM field offices over a 4-state area.
- iii. The BLM project manager is Mark Mackiewicz.
- iv. Cooperating Agencies to the BLM are being established and a Notice of Intent should be published in the Federal Register by this summer.

**4. WestConnect Activities – Charlie Reinhold**

Charlie Reinhold reported that on April 13, 2011 WestConnect filed a new tariff for regional pricing at FERC that requested a two year extension. There have not been any interventions on this filing, to-date.

The Virtual Control Area Work Group is attempting to implement intra-hour scheduling, starting July 1, 2011 (tentatively).

Charlie Reinhold reviewed WestConnect's joint initiatives, LGIP reforms and phase 2 of the NREL Western Wind and Solar Integration Study.

**5. MOD Implementation Update – LeeAnn Torkelson and SWAT group**

MOD-29 compliance was due on 4/1/2011. SRP, TEP and APS are still investigating compliance with MOD-30.

**6. TIP Projects Update – Kaicheng Chen**

Kaicheng Chen reviewed Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) TIP program and the development of a business model on how to evaluate a transmission project's eligibility for ARRA funding.

The Montana to Alberta Transmission Intertie project was awarded \$161 M in TIP funding. The total cost for the project is estimated at \$213 M.

WAPA has developed a public-private partnership model that is being considered for the Transwest Express Transmission Project.

Kaicheng Chen discussed the other transmission projects that are being evaluated for eligibility for TIP funding.

## **DAY TWO: May 11, 2011**

### **7. Political Overview – SWAT group**

LeeAnn Torkelson led the discussion on various political activities in the west that may impact transmission planning in the SWAT footprint. Items discussed include:

- Arizona Senate Bill 1517 that was not passed;
- Nevada Assembly Bill 387 that requires a Renewable Energy Conceptual Plan;
- Various bills and joint memorials in New Mexico;
- A law in California that requires 33% of the energy from investor owned utilities are to be supplied by renewable sources;
- The 2011 Renewable Energy Resources Act in California; and
- Eminent domain bill in Montana

Jeremy Turner reported on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was executed with Goldman Sachs Global Infrastructure Partners II, L.P. on March 30, 2011. The MOU establishes a partnership to jointly develop a wind collector system in New Mexico. This project is currently planned to be a 183-mile, 345 kV line that may have 1,200 MW of capacity that will interconnect to the Four Corners hub via the existing PNM electric system. APS and CAISO are collaborating to determine if there is sufficient capacity to export additional energy from Four Corners.

### **8. WECC Activities – LeeAnn Torkelson**

#### **a) NERC**

- i. Don Bryce is participating in the NERC *Proposed Definition of Bulk Electric System and Related Rules of Procedure Team* and reported that comments on the draft BES documents are due May 27, 2011.
- ii. The Rules and Procedures were released May 10, 2011 and comments are due June 1, 2011.
- iii. A webinar will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks.

#### **b) TEPPC Update**

- i. LeeAnn Torkelson reviewed the schedule for completing and submitting the 10-year plan to DOE by September 2011.
- ii. The TEPPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAS) released the results of a Congestion Study and LeeAnn Torkelson reviewed SRP's comments on paths included in the study. The group discussed the disconnect between historical congestion and the congestion assumptions used in the analysis. There is a TAS meeting on May 18, 2011 to discuss the 2011 study economic

requests. TEPPC will review and may approve this study during a meeting scheduled May 24-25, 2011.

- iii. LeeAnn Torkelson reported on the activities of the TEPPC Scenario Planning Steering Group (SPSG). REOS Partners was contracted as the new scenario planner and will develop new scenarios before May 23, 2011 that will replace the dysfunctional ones created by IHS CERA. The TEPPC SPSG Environmental Data Task Force has released a draft report on May 6, 2011 on a methodology for incorporating environmental data into the transmission planning process. LeeAnn Torkelson reviewed the recommendations from the report that may be relevant to SWAT.

**c) SCG Update**

- i. British Columbia Coordinated Planning Group and California Transmission planning group are new members to SCG.
- ii. SCG has developed a map of the foundational and potential projects lists and are in the process of updating the lists for 2022.
- iii. *“Reasons for Building New Transmission”* whitepaper is available for review.

**9. Break**

**10. WECC Project Coordination/Path Rating Process revisions – Gary Trent**

Gary reviewed the changes to the WECC Project Coordination and Path Rating Process. These changes were reviewed and approved by PCC and WECC Board Members during March 2011.

**11. Update of Phase II NREL Western Wind and Solar Integration Study – Tom Duane**

Tom Duane reviewed WestConnect’s recommendations for Phase II input and the goals of the Phase II Study. The group discussed the need for the study to investigate the impacts of increased emissions that will result from an increased number of generator start-ups and how this may invalidate air quality permits.

A final report is expected to be available during March-May, 2011.

**12. OATT Updates and Changing LGIP**

Jason Spitzkoff reviewed LGIP reforms that included deposit amounts and refunds, deposits in lieu of site control to accommodate sites on state, federal or tribal lands.

Methods for standardization of E&P agreements are being developed and will be reviewed by FERC staff. FERC will have 60 days to act on the filing.

**13. Adjourn**

**Attendees:**

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First name</u>	<u>Company</u>
Aldridge	Madeleine	First Solar
Anderson	Tami	MAPPCOR
Bailey	Cindy	Southwestern Power/Sunzia
Barbera	Frank	Tres Amigas
Bryce	Donald	Bureau of Reclamation
Carrol	Karen	WestConnect
Charters	Jim	Western States Energy Solutions
Chen	Kaicheng	Western Area Power Administration
Corathers	Amy	Logan Simpson Design
Desmond	Matt	First Wind
Duane	Tom	PNM
Dunmire	Carolyn	Ecosphere Environmental Services
Evans	Bruce	Southwest Transmission Cooperative
Fluder	Joseph	SWCA Environmental
Franklin	David	Southern California Edison
Fredrickson	Daniel	MAPPCOR
Goel	Soam	Power Network New Mexico
Gonzales	Angela	RETA
Keene	Stephen	Imperial Irrigation District
Kenny	Christopher	Star Group Consulting
Knox	Richard	Kleinfelder
Krzykos	Peter	Arizona Public Service
Lundberg	Jack	Keres Consulting
Malone	Dennis	El Paso Electric
Moye	Bill	Star Group Consulting
Nail	George	PNM
Ormond	Amanda	Western Grid Group/Interwest
Patterson	Doug	Black Forest Partners
Porter	Leon	SW WindDynamics
Pratt	Jim	SRP
Reedy	Karen	PNM
Reinhold	Charles	WestConnect
Rietz	DeAnne	SWCA Environmental Consultant

Roxberry	Tom	EPG
Ruiz	Reuben	Central Arizona Project (CAP)
Russell	Chuck	Salt River Project
Rutland	Jeff	SWPG
Souder	Julia	Clean Line Energy Partners
Spitzkoff	Jason	Arizona Public Service
Szot	Lisa	Enel Green Power
Tang	Jim	PDS Consulting
Torkelson	LeeAnn	Salt River Project
Trent	Gary	Tucson Electric Power
Turner	Jeremy	RETA
Virant	Matt	Hunt Transmission
Wray	Tom	Southwestern Power/SunZia