

**Advisory Work Group
Kick Off Meeting
June 28, 2011
Meeting Notes¹**

Meeting Attendees:

Amanda Ormond – chaired (Western Grid Group and Interwest Energy Alliance), Frank Barbara (Tres Amigas), Lori Woodall (KR Saline), Tim Cushing (RK Solar), Barbara Macmin (APS), Richard Knox (Klinfelder), Jan Strack (SDGE), Cindy Bailey (Southwest Power Group)

Amanda discussed the two purposes for forming the AWG and asked for suggestions on what the AWG should work on to provide value in the transmission planning process. The group had a wide-ranging discussion. Below are some of the key points of discussion and recommendations of possible actions for the group.

CTPG/ SWAT coordination was discussed at length. CTPG members expressed interest in having SWAT members provide data for their studies to make them as accurate as possible. CTPG has six meetings per year which can be joined by SWAT members. There was recognition that resources to attend all six meetings may be tight. CTPG is scheduled to have representatives at the August SWAT/Joint meetings in Denver.

Recommendation 1: CTPG meetings should be cross-posted on the SWAT (Westconnect) website to make it easier to join CTPG meetings.

Recommendation 2: CTPG should give a briefing to SWAT on their study cycle and the timing and data needs of the group.

The group discussed **FERC NORPs** that could affect transmission planning in the west and what AWG should do to inform SWAT about possible impacts. Since utilities have staff that follow the NORPs some questioned whether there may not be value in discussing them at SWAT. However, the group recognized that not all SWAT participants have access to such information.

Recommendation 3: AWG should identify people who could provide updates of the NORPs on the AWG calls and at SWAT meetings. This could be AWG attendees or utility regulatory staff.

Recommendation 4: SWAT has an interest in the NORPs, and to the extent possible, SWAT should submit comments on behalf of the group. (note: SWAT has commented on some NORPs in the past)

State policy affects what type of generation is built and where. Understanding the specifics of CA, NM and AZ state policy is important for planners. Most important is renewable energy goals and information on “net short” resource needs. It is also important to ensure good coordination between WECC and its state policy members, and SWAT.

Recommendation 5: Make sure state policy reps are involved in SWAT to be able to give and receive relevant information.

¹ This was one of two kick off meetings. Please also see notes from LeeAnn Torkelson

Recommendation 6: Create a URL on the SWAT web pages for a blog on policy. Have a nesting place for new decisions or policies that will allow easy access to policy information from multiple states. AWG will review quarterly what is on the site. Richard Knox will head up effort.

The **FERC Cost Allocation NOPR**, as proposed, requires the development of inter-regional coordination agreement. The group discussed if the AWG should develop a draft agreement to get ahead of the NORP.

Recommendation 7: Review the Cost Allocation NOPR proposed requirements to establish Inter-regional coordination agreements to determine if any of the directives could be helpful to SWAT and CPTG in doing better coordination. Cindy Bailey will send the appropriate section of the proposed rule to the AWG.

Project-Specific Information - For utilities to make investments in tx projects in the future it is important to have information on generation projects and resource policies that may affect where generation is built. Knowing which generation projects are “real” and likely to be built is critical. Also having information on the economic impacts of transmission project on different stakeholder groups is important for project evaluation.

Recommendation 8: Evaluate the possibility of SWAT conducting economic studies to determine benefits to utilities/BAs of specific multi-state or multi-BA lines. WECC conducts some analysis that could be used a starting point for SWAT-specific study.

Engagement of Tribes in the transmission planning process was also discussed. Additional outreach to tribes may be beneficial to ensure necessary input on transmission projects. No specific recommendation on how to proceed or engage specific tribes.

LeeAnn had requested that the AWG take over preparing the **Policy Update for SWAT meetings**.

Recommendation 9 : The AWG will identify which policies and state issue should be covered at each SWAT meeting and identify people who can present.

The group decided that the **meeting frequency** for the AWG should be quarterly, by phone, in advance of SWAT meetings.