



Description of Meeting:	NTTG Planning Committee Meeting
Meeting Date:	April 22, 2009
Meeting Minutes Prepared By:	Lynn Jesus-Olhausen
Approved to Post:	August 12, 2009

Attendee List: Jamie Austin, Rich Bayless, Marshall Empey, Lynn Jesus-Olhausen, John Leland, Ryan Munson, Ron Schellberg, Kip Sikes, Steven Wallace

Not in Attendance: Orlando Ciniglio, Arlo Corwin, Brian DeKiep, Eric Egge, Darrell Gerrard, Derrick Harris, Sharon Helms, Bill Hosie, Paul Kjellander, Jeff Newby, Jim Tucker, Darrel Zlomke

1. Agenda:

- Regional Planning Updates
Activities at the national and regional level that impact Northern Tier and its members.
 - FERC inquiry into sub-regional planning
 - Others
- Local Planning Updates
Activities at Transmission Providers, regulators, and stakeholders that impact Northern Tier.
- Sub-Regional Planning
 - NTTG response to regional activities
 - Coordination with other sub-regional groups
 - Workgroup activities and concerns
 - Power flow studies
 - Economic studies
- Roundtable

2. Discussions & Decisions:

Discussion: Regional Planning Updates

- FERC inquiry into sub-regional planning
 - FERC Office of Electricity Reliability has contacted NTTG to schedule a meeting.
 - A conference call occurred to see how NTTG can best accommodate FERC's inquiry.
 - FERC OER has been meeting with various entities across the Western Interconnection. They are interested in learning how NTTG's planning activities are set up and functioning.
 - This inquiry is from the reliability analysis section and although compliance is in the same overall department, information exchanged during this meeting will not be shared with the compliance side. FERC OER is interested in beginning a dialogue to understand how the West goes about planning.
 - The meeting with FERC and NTTG will occur in mid to late-May. It will likely be available as a webinar and open to participation.
- Others
 - ColumbiaGrid Planning Meeting on May 7th, 2009 at the ColumbiaGrid offices
 - ColumbiaGrid is looking for input from NTTG or its members, in regard to the following:
 - Some issues, most like with data, have been found in their system assessment that involve Northern Tier member transmission providers.
 - Discussion of POR/POD interchanges in their conceptual studies, and
 - Further clarification on the progress of some transmission projects, especially a reported Trojan to Portland line, delays in the PacifiCorp Boardman-Hemingway line and status updates on Big Tent projects.
 - Information to call in can be found on ColumbiaGrid's website calendar.
 - WECC and ARRA (Stimulus Bill)

- TEPPC has created a taskforce to draft a white paper on Western Interconnection planning processes and 3 tier (local, sub-regional, regional) structure.
- This white paper is in preparation for responding to DOE's RFP due to appear soon on the Federal Register, as part of DOE's work toward an interconnection-wide planning process.
- The paper outlines the long term evaluation of needs in the West, It is a broad-based, conceptual look at what and where the region's needs are.
- The proposal being drafted will affect NTTG's next planning cycle. The on-going work for the current cycle should be unaffected.
- The whitepaper will be a topic for discussion at WECC's board meeting next week. This will be essentially an update, as a firm proposal cannot be formed until DOE's RFP is published in the Federal Register.
- WREZ
 - Meetings are taking place this week in Salt Lake City, UT
 - The agenda includes voting on QRA's (Qualifying Resource Areas?) to define zones, and on approval of the zones.
 - Next steps will be discussed, including Phase 2 of the overall project process.

Discussion: Local Planning Updates

- Idaho Power
 - Boardman-Hemingway Project
 - Opposition was received in the siting and permitting process.
 - Oregon Integrated Resource Plan Process
 - The IRP approval is paused at this point, in order to achieve more support for approval from the Oregon Commission.
 - Timing is unknown for the remainder of this process.
 - Participation in a community advisory process will look at potential alternative routes. This process is expected to run through the remainder of the year.
- UAMPS
 - UAMPS, Deseret and PacifiCorp are trying to complete a planning study to serve Southern Utah.
 - This project will most likely mesh into the Gateway South project and interconnect at the Red Butte sub-station in 2018.
 - There is a more urgent need for the next couple of years for additional load and transfer capabilities. A possible 345 kV line may be proposed and will be routed through a UAMPS load service area to facilitate construction of a sub-station to provide more reliable load service.
- NorthWestern
 - NorthWestern is discovering some issues, but they are localized and not expected to become major issues.
 - FERC Compliance Audit
 - NorthWestern's 2 PL standards were accepted in full.
 - Their FERC 890 process that was suggested in their Attachment K filing made it through the compliance audit process.
 - The MSTI project is in the Phase 2 rating process, and has encountered some routing problems.
 - NorthWestern expects a mid-year resolution to the Phase 2 process.
 - In regard to siting, there have not been any major roadblocks to date. NorthWestern files 3 alternative routes and different combinations. They have filed in Idaho and Montana. In Idaho they are expecting positive responses and in Montana they have provided EIS statements and expect a draft report this fall.



Discussion: Sub-Regional Planning

- NTTG response to regional activities
 - NTTG continues to monitor and participate in regional activities. All information will continue to be brought back to NTTG and the appropriate committees.

Discussion: Coordination with other sub-regional groups

- Coordination with ColumbiaGrid
 - Steven will check on status with Rich, regarding sinks for studied NTTG exports.
 - This coordination will be replicated with WestConnect.

Discussion: Workgroup activities and concerns

- Power flow studies
 - Ryan will need inter-sub-regional data from Rich and the May 5th meeting with CG.
 - Work is on track for May 13th completion, assuming timely input on sinks is received.
- Economic studies
 - The current NTTG portfolio projects are integrated with both GridView (PacifiCorp) and PowerWorld (Idaho Power.) Validation of the network is on-going. Once that validation is complete, the model can be run. This work is on track for a May 13th completion.
 - The models will not be specifically compared to each other, but any large discrepancy between the results from the two platforms will be examined to validate study assumptions.

Discussion: Roundtable

- No additional issues were raised.

3. Assignments:

Item #	Assignment	Owner	Target Date	Status
1.	Work with Rich Bayless on coordination with ColumbiaGrid and WestConnect for study power flow sinks	Steven Wallace	04-24-09	

Next Meeting: Next Meeting: The next Northern Tier Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for May 6th, 2009 at 1:00PM Pacific.

- Voice Conference Mtg. **503-813-5600** (toll free #800-503-3360)
- Meeting ID **688484** and password **123456**