



<b>Description of Meeting:</b>	<b>NTTG Planning Committee</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>May 4, 2011</b>
<b>Meeting Minutes Prepared By:</b>	<b>Sharon Helms</b>
<b>Approved for Posting:</b>	<b>June 1, 2011</b>

**Attendee List:**

- Dave Angell – IPCO (Class 1)
- Jamie Austin - PAC (Class 1)
- Clark Blanco - NextEra Energy (Class 1)
- Eric Egge – Black Hills (Class 1)
- Marshall Empey – UAMPS (Class 2)
- Sharon Helms - NTTG
- John Leland - Northwestern (Class 1)
- Jacob Lucas - FERC
- Ron Schellberg –IPC0 (Class 1)
- Jim Tucker – DG&T (Class 1)

**1. Agenda:**

- Welcome, introductions, agenda review – J. Leland
- Approval of March 30, 2011 meeting notes – J. Leland
- Update on the activities of the NTTG Technical Workgroup – D. Angell
- Planning Committee Resourcing and Funding Options – J. Leland

**2. Discussions & Decisions:**

**Discussion: Welcome, introductions and agenda review**

- The meeting commenced with a roll call and confirmation that the requirements for voting had been satisfied.
- The agenda was reviewed and John Leland, Planning Committee Chair, proposed adding Planning Committee budget requirements to the agenda. Additional agenda topics were solicited and none offered. The agenda was adopted with the suggested modification.

**Decision: Review and approval of minutes of March 30, 211**

- Dave Angell moved to approve the minutes as presented. Jim Tucker seconded. The motion carried.
- The approved notes will be posted on the NTTG website.

**Discussion: NTTG Technical Workgroup (TWG) Update**

- The TWG has completed approximately 25 studies attempting to stress the system under various scenarios. The results of the analysis were shared with stakeholders at the April 6, 2011 NTTG stakeholder meeting. The TWG members are currently engaged in compiling and archiving the study data for future data sharing needs.
- The TWG meets on May 11<sup>th</sup> to conduct a review of the 2010-2011 study processes and will conduct a strength, weakness and opportunity assessment, and develop process improvement recommendations.

**Discussion: Planning Committee Resourcing and Funding Options**

- John Leland reviewed Northern Tier's practice of utilizing members' staffing resources to complete the NTTG studies. A recent informal survey of the group established that the study effort expended approximately 850 hours or roughly 21 forty-hour weeks of staff time.
- One of the issues encountered with this approach is the fact that the utility members do not utilize a common study platform (e.g. GridView, PowerWorld, Promod, etc) and the resultant difficulties with transferring data between platforms.
- An approach for addressing the resource implications associated with Steven Wallace's departure, and the technical inefficiencies of multiple platforms, is to consider hiring a



modeling consultant who could assist in offloading, in part, the work now performed by utility staff.

- In addition to the technical modeling support, requirements for hiring a project manager and a technical writer were briefly discussed.
- A recommendation for process and software options will be an output of the May 11<sup>th</sup> TWG meeting. This recommendation will be brought forward for discussion at the next Planning Committee meeting, prior to submitting to the NTTG Funders for consideration and approval.

**Next Meeting: Next Meeting:** The next Northern Tier Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 1:00 PM (PPT)

- Voice Conference Mtg. **503-813-5600** (toll free #800-503-3360)
- Meeting ID **688433** and password **123456**