



MINUTES OF THE
NORTHERN TIER STEERING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Northern Tier Transmission Group (“NTTG”) Steering Committee was held in Salt Lake City, Utah on the 30th day of April 2019. Participation via web and conference call was also available. The following members and designated alternates were present at the meeting, constituted a quorum and did not object to notice:

- Michelle Beck, Utah Office of Consumer Services,
- Shaun Foster, proxy for Larry Bekkedahl, Portland General Electric,
- David Clark, NTTG State Co-Chair/Utah Public Service Commission,
- Megan Decker, Oregon Marshall Empey, UAMPS,
- Marshall Empey, UAMPS,
- Bryce Freeman, Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocates,
- Brian Fritz, NTTG Utility Co-Chair/PacifiCorp,
- Dave Angell, proxy for Dave Joerger, Idaho Power Company,
- Bob Decker, proxy for Brad Johnson, Montana Public Service Commission,
- Paul Kjellander, NTTG State Vice-Chair/Idaho Public Utilities Commission,
- Dori Quam, proxy for Andrew McLain, NorthWestern Energy Corporation,
- Larry Nordell, Montana Consumer Counsel, and
- Phil Solomon, NTTG Utility Vice Chair/Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Travis Allen, MATL and Commissioner Kara Fornstrom, Wyoming Public Service Commission, were absent and did not designate proxies. The following guests were present:

- Ravi Aggarwal, BPA,
- Rich Bayless, CPS for NTTG,
- Justin Bieber, UAE,
- Jeff Cook, BPA,
- Kenny Dillon, Avista,
- Sarah Edmonds, Portland General,
- Jared Ellsworth, Idaho Power Company,
- Kathleen Frazier, Energy Strategies,
- Stephen Goodson, Idaho Public Utilities Commission,

Laura Hatfield, Puget Sound Energy, Inc.,
Sharon Helms, CPS for NTTG,
Fred Heutte, NWECC,
Bill Hosie, TransCanada,
John Leland, CPS for NTTG,
Chelsea Loomis, Northwestern Energy and NTTG Planning Committee Chair,
Mike Magruder, Avista
Marci Norby, Wyoming Public Service Commission,
Ann Rendahl, UTC,
Ron Schellberg, CPS for NTTG,
Bela Vestag, Utah Office of Consumer Services,
Courtney Waites, Idaho Power Company and NTTG Cost Allocation Committee Chair, and
Amy Wachsicht, CPS for NTTG.

Commissioner Kjellander called the meeting to order, reviewed the agenda and requested that the approval items be moved forward and addressed prior to the reports. The revised agenda was approved. On motion by Phil Solomon and second by Michelle Beck, the December 18, 2018 Steering Committee minutes were unanimously **approved**. The minutes will be posted on Northern Tier's website.

APPROVALS

Annual Election of NTTG Utility Chair and Vice-Chair

Dave Angell, proxy for Dave Joerger, nominated Brian Fritz as the NTTG Utility Co-Chair. Marshall Empey nominated Phil Solomon as the NTTG Utility Vice Chair. With no objections to closing the nominations, the candidates were approved by acclimation without objection.

Annual Election of NTTG State Chair and Vice-Chair

Commissioner Paul Kjellander nominated Commissioner Dave Clark to serve as NTTG's State Co-Chair. Commissioner Dave Clark nominated Commissioner Paul Kjellander to serve as the NTTG State Vice Chair. With no objections to closing the nominations, the candidates were approved by acclimation without objection.

REPORT
NTTG 2018-2019 DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLAN (dRTP)
DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Jared Ellsworth, NTTG Planning Committee Vice Chair reviewed the system representation, assumptions and processes that were employed during the evaluation and selection of projects for the NTTG 2018-2019 Draft Regional Transmission Plan (dRTP). Based on reliability and economic analysis, the more efficient or cost-effective dRTP is NTTG's prior Regional Transmission Plan. Mr. Empey asked whether PacifiCorp's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and updated coal plant studies will be taken into consideration when selecting the Final Regional Transmission Plan. Mr. Ellsworth responded that PacifiCorp's IRP will not be released until August 2019 and due to timing constraints will not influence this cycle's plan.

Mr. Ellsworth informed the group that NTTG's dRTP was posted for stakeholder comment during the month of January 2019 and one set of comments was submitted by the Joint Parties comprised of Deseret Power, Utah Association of Energy Users (UAE), Utah Department of Commerce Office of Consumer Services, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), and the Wyoming Industrial Energy Consumers (WIEC). These joint parties, without WIEC, also submitted the 2019 Public Policy Consideration and the 2019 Economic Study Request.

Mr. Ellsworth walked through [the stakeholder comments that were submitted, highlighting important points, NTTG's response](#) and the subsequent recommended [revisions to the NTTG dRTP](#).

REPORT
NTTG PUBLIC POLICY CONSIDERATION (PPC) STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Ellsworth continued with a briefing on the NTTG 2018-2019 Public Policy Consideration Study request to study the retirement of additional coal fired generation not being evaluated in the 2018-2028 NTTG 10-year planning window. Mr. Ellsworth reviewed the stressed conditions that were studied, the replacement resources and the study conclusions. He reinforced that PPC study results are informational only and may inform NTTG's Regional Transmission Plan but will not result in inclusion of additional transmission projects. The [PPC Report](#) will be included as an Appendix in the 2018-2019 Final Regional Transmission Plan.

REPORT

NTTG Q5 DATA SUBMITTALS & 2019 ECONOMIC STUDY REQUEST

Mr. Ellsworth provided a summary of the NTTG [Quarter 5 updates](#), noting that the purpose for the Quarter 5 data submittal window is to inform NTTG of any material changes from the data submitted in Q1 that could impact the Draft Regional Transmission Plan. Mr. Ellsworth also informed members of the 2019 Economic Study Request (ESR) that was submitted in Quarter 5 to study replacing the 500 kV Gateway West and South Projects with one or two 345 kV lines between Windstar-Aeolus area to Populus-Borah-Midpoint area. On April 24th, the NTTG Planning Committee voted to accept the Economic Study Request. The Technical Workgroup will conduct the technical analysis and develop a report with the findings. The study results will be reported in the Regional Transmission Plan and provided to the requesting party.

REPORT

REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Dave Angell, Idaho Power Delivery Planning Manager, provided a status update on the efforts to establish a new Regional Planning Organization, “NorthernGrid”, that will combine the NTTG and ColumbiaGrid planning regions, and meet FERC compliance obligations for the jurisdictional entities. He stated the new planning region footprint will have both jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional members and reviewed [membership and eligibility requirements](#).

Mr. Angell reviewed the [planning process and milestones](#). Larry Nordell noted that the process takes into consideration new projects, “including Order 1000 candidates” and inquired whether it was anticipated that there would be projects that would not be Order 1000 candidates. Mr. Angell responded that the intent was to specify those projects that had requested FERC Order 1000 cost allocation and that the group is currently working through language differences.

Mr. Angell discussed the opportunity for [regulatory and state involvement](#), noting that NorthernGrid is trying to create a process that would keep the states engaged. Michelle Beck stated that limiting the engagement to each state having one designated representative does not constitute meaningful state engagement and may result in minimizing the customer voice that the Consumer Advocate groups currently provide. Commissioner Decker noted that it was the preference of the group to have each state designate a member representative and that may not be the commission or regulator. Ms. Beck stated that approach did not alleviate her concern.

A review of the proposed [governing documents](#) followed this discussion. The parties intend to file revised Attachment K’s with FERC in June, followed by vender RFP and selection, with an effective date of January 2020. ColumbiaGrid and NTTG will work with their respective

members to develop appropriate transition plans for each organization to accommodate NorthernGrid formation.

Following lunch, a detailed discussion on the governance rationale, and the value of the new planning organization were discussed more fully. It was pointed out that while Public Power entities want to participate, they don't want to be subject to FERC jurisdiction, where the FERC jurisdictional parties are required to. Free ridership is a hot topic and this proposed process protects both jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional entities. Mr. Angell walked through examples of how the planning and cost allocation would be treated for both jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional parties and the resulting single plan process that allows parties that are FERC jurisdictional to meet their obligations.

The roles and responsibilities of the Enrolled Parties and States (EPS) Committee and the Planning Committee was discussed next. Specifically, the EPS Committee can provide comments on the draft plan to the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee reviews and discusses input with the EPS Committee Co-Chairs and determines if changes to the plan are required. The Enrolled Party Co-Chair is the voting member of the Planning Committee. Commissioner Kjellander inquired as to whether the EPS Committee might be the place to address Ms. Beck's concerns regarding meaningful representation. Mr. Angell replied indicating that the option for states to have more than one representative would be discussed further with the NorthernGrid founder group. It was noted that the Enrolled Party Co-Chair would be a voting member of the Planning Committee, but not the State representative. Commissioner Kjellander further inquired as to whether there was a possibility for the states to have an equal role when there is a vote. Mr. Angell responded that he would take back the expansion of state representation to possibly more than one representative for each state and the ability for a vote in the Planning Committee to the NorthernGrid participants for consideration.

Mr. Nordell stated that there is a significant gap in the details of the cost allocation methodology, noting the risk to rate payers and requesting more information and details. Sarah Edmonds responded that the FERC filing is the highest priority, and that while the NTTG Attachment K included that level of detail, NorthernGrid has decided to remove a lot of the detail and methodology out of the tariff. It has not yet been determined if the details will be in the Study Plan, or possibly the Planning Agreement. It was commented that laying out a step by step planning process would be very helpful to everyone to understand the details of the process.

Commissioner Kjellander thanked the parties for the meaningful conversation.

STAKEHOLDER COMMENT PERIOD

No additional comments or topics were offered.

Commissioner Kjellander opened the floor for any closing comments and none were offered. There being no further action, the meeting adjourned.



By:
Sharon Helms, NTTG Project Manager



Approved:
Brian Fritz, NTTG Utility Co-Chair



Approved:
Paul Kjellander, NTTG State Vice Chair