



MINUTES OF THE
NORTHERN TIER STEERING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Northern Tier Transmission Group (“NTTG”) Steering Committee was held in Boise, Idaho on the 21st day of April, 2016 at 12:00 noon (MPT). Participation via web and phone conference was also available.

The following members and designated alternates were present, constituted a quorum and did not object to notice:

Dave Angell, proxy for Adam Richins, Idaho Power Company,
Michele Beck, Utah Office of Consumer Services,
Ray Brush, NTTG Utility Co-Chair/North Western Energy Corporation,
David Clark, NTTG State Vice-Chair/Utah Public Service Commission,
Marshall Empey, UAMPS,
Brian Fritz, proxy for Rick Vail, NTTG Utility Vice-Chair, PacifiCorp,
Travis Kavulla, NTTG State Co-Chair /Montana Public Service Commission and proxy
for John Savage, Public Utility Commission of Oregon,
Paul Kjellander, Idaho Public Utilities Commission,
Amy Light, proxy for Larry Bekkedahl, Portland General Electric,
Larry Nordell, Montana Consumer Counsel,
Nathan Powell, proxy for Phil Solomon, Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Inc., and
Bill Russell, Wyoming Public Service Commission.

The following guests were present:

Rich Bayless, Northern Tier Transmission Group,
Johanna Bell, Idaho Public Utilities Commission,
Sarah Edmonds, Vice President & General Counsel, PacifiCorp Transmission,
Sharon Helms, Northern Tier Transmission Group,
Bill Hosie, TransCanada,
Fred Heutte, Northwest Energy Coalition,

Katie Kaplan, Exelon,
John Leland, Northern Tier Transmission Group,
Chelsea Loomis, Northwestern Energy,
Jaimie Stamatson, Montana Consumer Counsel, and
Amy Wachsnicht, Northern Tier Transmission Group.

Ray Brush reviewed the meeting agenda. The agenda was approved. A motion by Paul Kjellander to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2015, NTTG Steering Committee was seconded by Marshall Empey and approved. The minutes will be posted on Northern Tier's website.

RESOLUTION

Election of the NTTG Steering Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs

Commissioner Kavulla asked for nominations for the NTTG Steering Committee, Utility Co-Chair. Incumbent Ray Brush was nominated by Commissioner Kjellander. Mr. Brush was elected by acclamation. Commissioner Kavulla asked for nominations for the NTTG Utility Vice-Chair. Incumbent Rick Vail was nominated by Marshall Empey and elected by acclamation.

Ray Brush requested nominations for the NTTG Steering Committee State Co-Chair. Larry Nordell nominated Commissioner Kavulla. Commissioner Kavulla was elected by acclamation. Ray Brush requested nominations for the NTTG Steering Committee State Vice-Chair position. Bill Russell nominated incumbent Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Clark was elected by acclamation.

REPORT

NTTG Quarter 1 Data Gathering

Chelsea Loomis, NTTG Planning Committee Vice Chair and acting chair, provided a recap of the 2014-2015 technical analysis and study results. The objective of the 2014-2015 Regional Transmission Plan is to resolve the 2024 NTTG footprint needs with a more efficient or cost effective plan than the local transmission owners' plans. Ms. Loomis briefed members on the projects that were submitted for consideration, the analysis that was completed and the selection of one Alternative Project and the Boardman to Hemingway project. Ms. Loomis reported that while SWIP-North had requested cost allocation, it was not selected into the plan as

the more efficient or cost effective solution and analysis of the Alternative Project resulted in all benefits not being allocated, rendering the project ineligible for cost allocation.

Ms. Loomis provided an overview of the 2016-2017 planning process and NTTG's expectations to utilize the WECC 2026 Common Case that will be developed and released by WECC with Round Trip capability. Ms. Loomis reviewed the Quarter One load and resource data submissions as well as both regional and interregional transmission projects that were submitted into NTTG's regional planning process for consideration this cycle. No non-transmission alternatives were submitted.

Ms. Loomis walked through the Public Policy Consideration (PPC) requests that had been submitted to study the impacts of retiring Colstrip Units 1, 2, & 3 and replace with 1494 MW of wind at Broadview and to retire Colstrip Units 1, 2 & 3 and replace with 1244 MW of wind at Broadview along with a 250 MW natural gas plant in Billings. The study requests were jointly submitted by Renewable Northwest Project and the Northwest Energy Coalition. NTTG worked with the submitters to reach agreement on minor modifications to the requests and reviewed the PPC Study Plan that the Planning Committee will recommend be included in the NTTG 2016-2017 Study Plan. Fred Heutte noted that in submitting the study request, the hope is to learn a bit more about the different range of outcomes and add to the understanding of broader consequences if Colstrip is phased out and replaced with wind, gas and possibly a synchronous condenser, if needed.

REPORT

WECC ANCHOR DATA SET DEVELOPMENT REPORT

John Leland reported on the development of the WECC Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC) Anchor Data Set (ADS), the issues with the current processes and the resulting problems with reconciling data between models and potential inconsistent and/or conflicting study results. The driver for producing the ADS is to provide a common starting point with consistent data assumptions for all production cost model and powerflow model datasets used by TEPPC, PCC and the Western Planning Regions. Mr. Leland stated that while WECC is the process owner, the Western Planning Regions are responsible for the accuracy of the data they provide. Once the ADS is developed, it can be modified to meet the study needs and alterations will be tracked through change cases to ensure transparency. Mr. Leland walked through the details of each phase of the ADS process flow and the milestone schedule, noting that a lot of coordination details still need to be worked out between the Western Planning Regions and WECC, but this is a positive step in the right direction.

REPORT
WECC RELIABILITY ASSESSMENT PROPOSAL

Dave Angell, Idaho Power and TEPPC PCC Vice Chair, provided an overview of the WECC 4.9 WECC Governance and Structure Review and the resulting Reliability Assessment Proposal that is currently under consideration. He noted that the recommendations are still under discussion and ultimately will require board approval. Mr. Angel reviewed the various process owner options that were under discussion and the recommendation to develop a new Reliability Assessment Committee (RAC) that incorporates all the functions of the TEPPC and PCC into this new committee. The benefits, among many, with this approach include better coordination as both near-term and long term planning will be within one organization. Mr. Angel also reviewed a recommended membership and representation structure, noting the goal is to establish a committee that is large enough to represent all of the necessary stakeholder interests, but small enough to facilitate efficient decision-making. An objective of establishing the membership representation of 13, an odd number, is to facilitate decision-making in cases where consensus is not possible. Mr. Angell noted he was unsure how appointments would be made.

REPORT
ENHANCED REGIONAL PLANNING EVALUATION REPORT

Ray Brush, Northwestern Energy, briefed the committee on the ColumbiaGrid and NTTG members' joint effort to evaluate the potential efficiencies and benefits associated with developing a new regional planning entity for the northwest footprint and possible organizational options that would best meet the joint needs. He noted that the process is still in the discussion stages and recommendations have yet to be drafted. One of the key issues that needs to be addressed is cost allocation, as there are only a few ColumbiaGrid members (Puget Sound Energy and Avista) that are involved with ColumbiaGrid's cost allocation.

Governance issues that are being discussed include whether the organization should be an association with a member governing body, rather than independent board, and how stakeholders, including regulatory bodies, would participate. Members are also concerned with costs and are evaluating services and staffing required to support the planning requirements in a manner that is acceptable to all. At this stage there is sufficient consent among the members to continue moving forward and fleshing out details.

Mr. Brush encouraged anyone with questions or comments to contact him, with a caveat that in this forum he is representing Northwestern Energy.

REPORT

Energy Imbalance Market update and PacifiCorp's benefit analysis of full participation in a regional ISO

Sarah Edmonds, Vice President & General Counsel for PacifiCorp Transmission, presented a brief update on PacifiCorp's participation in the CAISO Energy Imbalance Market and potential benefit analysis of full participation in a regional ISO-PAC RTO. Ms. Edmonds noted that interest continues to grow and as more entities join, benefits from increased resource diversity and least-cost economic constrained dispatch opportunities will mean more benefits to participants.

The timeline for regional integration was reviewed, noting that there is a lot of activity on the Senate Bill 350 studies that are expected to be released on April 25. A meeting will be held on April 27-28 at the CAISO to go through the results. On May 6 the California Energy Commission will conduct a workshop where the public will have an opportunity to engage in discussions and a public workshop in June is anticipated, but not yet announced.

The Transmission Access Charge proposal was scheduled to be addressed at the June Board of Governor's meeting, but has been pushed back to the August meeting to provide additional time for refining the proposal and a chance to get stakeholder comments and responses. A straw proposal on Resource Adequacy was recently released and will be discussed as well at the August Board of Governor's meeting. Members discussed the status of the governance proposals and Ms. Edmonds stated as efforts move forward, additional information will be shared.

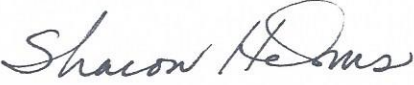
Stakeholder Comment Period


No additional comments or topics were offered.


Round Table/Other Business

No additional comments or topics were offered. There being no further action, the meeting adjourned.

[signature page follows]

By: 
Sharon Helms, NTTG Project Manager


Approved:
Ray Brush, NTTG Utility Co-Chair


Approved:
Travis Kavulla, NTTG State Co-Chair