



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 26th day of August 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:

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,
Brian Fritz, NTTG Utility Co-Chair/PacifiCorp,
Dave Angell, proxy for Dave Joerger, Idaho Power Company,
Brad Johnson, Montana Public Service Commission,
Mikki Arends, proxy for Younglae Kim, MATL,
Paul Kjellander, NTTG State Vice-Chair/Idaho Public Utilities Commission,
Andrew McLain, NorthWestern Energy Corporation,
Larry Nordell, Montana Consumer Counsel, and
Phil Solomon, NTTG Utility Vice Chair/Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Michelle Beck, Utah Office of Consumer Services, Bryce Freeman, Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocates, and Commissioner Kara Fornstrom, Wyoming Public Service Commission, were absent and did not designate proxies. The following guests were present:

Laura Hatfield, Puget Sound Energy,
Sharon Helms, CPS for NTTG,
Bill Hosie, TransCanada,
John Leland, CPS for NTTG,
Chelsea Loomis, Northwestern Energy and NTTG Planning Committee Chair,
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 Wachslicht, CPS for NTTG.

Commissioner Clark called the meeting to order, reviewed the agenda and hearing no objections to the agenda turned the floor over to Chelsea Loomis, NTTG's Planning Committee Chair.

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

Ms. Loomis reported that the NTTG Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan had been posted for stakeholder comment between July 2 and 16, 2019, with one set of comments received from TransCanada. Ms. Loomis walked through the [comments and NTTG's responses](#), as well as resulting modifications that were incorporated into the report. These changes included clarifications to the [Executive Summary](#), revisions to the [resource submission paragraph](#) to make it clear that both Quarter 1 and Quarter 5 submissions are included in the figure and tables, and removal of the reference to '[one in 10 peak load conditions](#)' when describing the adjustments to the balancing area loads in the Powerflow model. In August, the Planning Committee voted to approve NTTG's responses to the stakeholder comments and to support the subsequent plan revisions.

REPORT
2019 ECONOMIC STUDY REQUEST

Ms. Loomis continued with a review of the 2019 Annual Economic Study Request that was submitted in Quarter 5 by Deseret Power on behalf of the "Joint Parties" (UAMPS, Deseret Power, Utah Association of Energy Users, Utah Department of Consumer Services and Utah Municipal Power Agency). The parties requested that NTTG 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. She reviewed the [transmission configurations](#) that were studied and the [study results](#).

Mr. Solomon stated that he appreciated the efforts of the team to conduct the study and inquired whether there were other alternatives that could be studied to solve the issues that had been raised. Ms. Loomis replied stating that Attachment K had been designed with the expectation that

economic study requests were intended to be informational and that the team had done a good job of illustrating potential alternatives. It was also noted that PacifiCorp has already broken ground and acquired rights of way. Mr. Angell stated that with the changing state of the industry, there is a lot of uncertainty on resource development, retirements and timing, and that undertaking any transmission project comes with uncertainty. A longer-term look needs to be contemplated when taking into consideration coal and natural gas replacements.

Ms. Helms stated that the ESR Report will be posted for public stakeholder comment between August 28 and September 6. The Planning Committee will subsequently evaluate all comments received and make a final determination of modifications prior to incorporating the ESR into the Revised Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan report.

REPORT

REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Dave Angell, Idaho Power Delivery Planning Manager, provided a status update on the activities underway to implement “NorthernGrid”, a regional planning organization that will combine the NTTG and ColumbiaGrid planning regions, and meet FERC compliance obligations for the jurisdictional entities. He informed members that the jurisdictional utilities had filed a Funding and Finance Administrator Agreement with FERC on August 20, 2019, with an effective date of October 31, 2019. Two NTTG members, Deseret Power Electric Cooperative and UAMPS, did not sign the Funding Agreement.

Mr. Angell briefed the committee on a recent meeting with FERC staff, stating that the staff were appreciative and supportive of the creation of a planning organization with a larger footprint. FERC offered advice on the filing letter, recommending that the parties clearly identify how this new Attachment K incorporates previously approved NTTG or ColumbiaGrid orders. FERC had many questions around cost allocation and were assured that it would work the same as it does today for ColumbiaGrid, with the non-jurisdictional parties having the optionality to opt-in or out.

Mr. Angell reviewed the structure of the NorthernGrid Committees, their responsibilities and representation. He reported that the Members Committee will be responsible for the budget, and vendor and contract management, with representation of one per member. The Members Committee is in the process of getting set up and had their first meeting on August 22nd. The Planning Committee is responsible for the regional plan development and is expected to start up in the January timeframe. The group is looking to get the Enrolled Parties and States Committee (“ESPC”) representation identified soon so that communications and processes run smoothly starting in 2020. It was noted that the Enrolled Parties and States Committees (‘EPSC’) will have

one representative from each Enrolled Party and up to two from each state. Representation in the EPSC is determined by the respective state. Mr. Nordell expressed his hesitation and observed that there are different interests within the states and his concerns that the Consumer Groups will not have a voice. It was pointed out that the meetings are open and those agencies within the state that are not the selected representatives will have the ability to participate in the meetings and provide input.

They parties are targeting filing revised Attachment K's with FERC in Quarter 3 and to select a vendor in Quarter 4, for a start date of January 1, 2020.

APPROVAL

Commissioner Clark requested a motion to approve the April 30, 2019 Steering Committee meeting notes. On motion by Commissioner Kjellander and second by Phil Solomon, the notes were unanimously approved.

STAKEHOLDER COMMENT PERIOD

Commissioner Clark opened the floor for closing comments. None were offered. Commissioner Kjellander motioned for the meeting to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Marshall Empey, and Commissioner Clark declared the meeting adjourned.



By:
Sharon Helms, NTTG Project Manager



Approved:
Brian Fritz, NTTG Utility Co-Chair



Approved:
Commissioner David Clark, NTTG State Chair