



MINUTES OF THE
NORTHERN TIER STEERING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Northern Tier Transmission Group (“NTTG”) Steering Committee was held via web and conference call on the 28th day of August 2017. The following members and designated alternates were present:

- Michelle Beck, Utah Office of Consumer Services,
- Ray Brush, NorthWestern Energy Corporation,
- Marshall Empey, UAMPS,
- Bryce Freeman, Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocates,
- Brian Fritz, NTTG Utility Co-Chair/PacifiCorp,
- Lisa Hardie, Oregon Public Utility Commission,
- Dave Joerger, Idaho Power Company,
- Travis Kavulla, NTTG State Co-Chair/Montana Public Service Commission,
- Michael Manarovici, proxy for Travis Allen, MATL,
- Larry Nordell, Montana Consumer Counsel, and
- Phil Solomon, Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The following members were not present and did not designate a proxy:

- Larry Bekkedahl, Portland General Electric,
- David Clark, NTTG State Vice-Chair/Utah Public Service Commission,
- Paul Kjellander, Idaho Public Utilities Commission, and
- Bill Russell, Wyoming Public Service Commission

The following guests were present:

- Rich Bayless, CPS for NTTG,
- Justin Bieber, for Utah Association of Energy Users,
- Kathleen Fraser, Energy Strategies,
- Sharon Helms, CPS for NTTG,
- John Leland, CPS for NTTG,
- Chelsea Loomis, Northwestern Energy,

Andrew McLain, Northwestern Energy,
Nathan Powell, Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Craig Quist, PacifiCorp,
Ron Schellberg, CPS for NTTG,
Bela Vastag, Utah Office of Consumer Services, and
Amy Wachslicht, CPS for NTTG.

REPORT

Stakeholder Comments on the 2016-2017 NTTG Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan

Mr. Craig Quist, NTTG Planning Committee Chair, opened the meeting by informing participants that the purpose of the meeting was to review comments that had been submitted by stakeholders and to ensure that Steering Committee members are apprised of any issues that may affect the December 14, 2017 approval of the final 2016-2017 Regional Transmission Plan.

Ms. Chelsea Loomis, NTTG Planning Committee Vice Chair, briefed members on the stakeholder comment process and that the July 2017 public comment window on the NTTG 2016-2017 Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan resulted in the submittal of four sets of comments: 1) Deseret Power, 2) Utah Office of Consumer Services, 3) Utah Associate of Energy Users (UAE) and Wyoming Industrial Customer (WIEC) and 4) UAMPS. NTTG's responses to the comments were drafted, considered and approved by the Planning Committee at the August 9 Planning Committee meeting. However, given that some of the Planning Committee Members voted to either abstain or oppose adoption of NTTG's response to the comments, it was determined that Steering members should be briefed on the comments, responses and concerns.

Ms. Loomis reported that the breadth of comments received was broad and for purposes of this discussion had been categorized into general themes. These [themes](#) included, among others, concerns that study assumptions, including Wyoming wind and load scaling assumptions, led to overbuild of the system and that projects identified in NTTG's Regional Transmission Plan would be automatically included in the local planning processes of the individual utilities.

Following an in-depth discussion by members, it was concluded that modifications to NTTG's Regional Transmission Plan should be included to clarify that NTTG is not a replacement for the integrated resource planning process, NTTG does not consider the re-dispatch or re-optimization of resource assumptions, and is not an attempt to design an optimal portfolio of resources to meet demand of the region. Caveats should also be included stating that NTTG relies on the load and resource submittals of its members and assumes that they are reasonable.

To the extent that the load and resource assumptions are inaccurate, the results of NTTG's Regional Transmission Plan will likely be influenced.

It was also recommended that the NTTG Data Submittal Form could be improved to help resolve some of the concerns. Suggested changes included confirming that resource submittals are limited to network or firm service requirements only and that submissions for interruptible or non-firm service should not be submitted. The Data Submittal Form should also be modified to request that submissions which will be used to satisfy a state's Renewable Portfolio Standard should clearly indicate for which state and the requirement.

The meeting concluded with agreement that the Planning Committee will incorporate today's input into the Revised Draft Final Regional Transmission that will be posted for the final round of stakeholder comments in September.

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.



By:
Sharon Helms, NTTG Project Manager



Approved:
Brian Fritz, NTTG Utility Co-Chair



Approved:
Travis Kavulla, NTTG State Co-Chair