



MINUTES OF THE
NORTHERN TIER STEERING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Northern Tier Transmission Group (“NTTG”) Steering Committee was held in Boise, Idaho on 18th day of December 2018. Participation via web and conference call was also available. The following members and designated alternates were present:

- Conner Donaldson, proxy for Travis Allen, MATL,
- Michelle Beck, Utah Office of Consumer Services,
- Shaun Foster, proxy for Larry Bekkedahl, Portland General Electric,
- Paul Kjellander, proxy for David Clark, NTTG State Co-Chair/Utah Public Service Commission,
- Marshall Empey, UAMPS,
- Bryce Freeman, Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocates,
- Brian Fritz, NTTG Utility Co-Chair/PacifiCorp,
- Dave Joerger, Idaho Power Company,
- Robin Arnold, proxy for Travis Kavulla, Montana Public Service Commission,
- Paul Kjellander, NTTG State Vice-Chair/Idaho Public Utilities Commission,
- Andrew McLain, NorthWestern Energy Corporation,
- Larry Nordell, Montana Consumer Counsel,
- James Bronscomb, proxy for Bill Russell, Wyoming Public Service Commission, and
- Phil Solomon, Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Megan Decker, Oregon Public Utility Commission was not present and did not designate a proxy.

The following guests were present:

- Dave Angell, Idaho Power Company,
- Justin Bieber, UAE,
- Paul Didsayabutra, ColumbiaGrid,
- Laura Hatfield, Puget Sound Energy, Inc.,
- Sharon Helms, CPS for NTTG,
- Bill Hosie, TransCanada,

John Leland, CPS for NTTG,
Chelsea Loomis, Northwestern Energy and NTTG Planning Committee Chair,
Mike Magruder, Avista
Rafael Molano, Bonneville Power,
Nathan Powell, Deseret Power Electric Cooperative,
Ron Schellberg, NTTG TWG Project Manager,
Bela Vestag, Utah Office of Consumer Services,
Courtney Waites, Idaho Power Company and NTTG Cost Allocation Committee Chair, and
Amy Wachsicht, CPS for NTTG.

APPROVAL

July 10, 2018 STEERING NOTES

A motion to approve the July 10, 2018 Steering Committee Meeting notes was seconded and approved. The minutes will be posted on the NTTG website.

REPORT

REVISIONS TO THE APPROVED 2018-2019 STUDY PLAN

Chelsea Loomis, NTTG Planning Committee Chair, facilitated a discussion on the [proposed revisions to the NTTG 2018-2019 Study Plan](#). Ms. Loomis reported that the NTTG Technical Workgroup (TWG) discovered an error in the previously approved Study Plan that was related to the use of powerflow modeling for evaluating losses. She explained that in the prior cycle, the TWG had evaluated the use of both powerflow and production cost modeling (PCM) and recommended that going forward continuation of the powerflow analysis was unnecessary. The subsequent retention of powerflow analysis in the Study Plan was an oversight and the Amended Study Plan has been modified to limit the evaluation of losses to production cost modeling. The second modification was to correct errors in the wind data from wind projects that were submitted in Quarter 1 and not modeled in the PCM.

Following this discussion, the resolution set forth below was presented for consideration. On a motion by Paul Kjellander and second by Dave Joerger, the resolution was adopted by unanimous consent of the members.

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL OF THE REVISED 2018-19 NTTG STUDY PLAN

RESOLVED: That the Steering Committee approves the Amended NTTG 2018-2019 Study Plan, as presented.

REPORT

NTTG 2018-2019 DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Chelsea Loomis continued with a briefing on the details of the development of the Draft 2018-2019 NTTG Regional Transmission Plan. Ms. Loomis reviewed the system representation and assumptions that included loads, resources, coal retirements, transmission additions, Public Policy Requirements and Interregional Transmission Projects that were considered during the analysis for the draft plan. Bela Vestag noted that in September PacifiCorp had filed a new depreciation study in Utah that included modifications to coal retirement dates and inquired whether PacifiCorp would be submitting updated data in Quarter 5 based on that information. Mr. Fritz responded that PacifiCorp's Quarter 5 submittal will depend on the next cycle of PacifiCorp's Integrated Resource Plan.

The approach used by the TWG to develop the NTTG base case, nine stressed conditions and the [resulting Change Case selection](#) were discussed in detail. Ron Schellberg, NTTG Technical Workgroup Project Manager, reviewed the methodology used to evaluate the reliability of the NTTG Plan, describing how the cases were tuned and each case tested with over 480 contingencies. Over 16,000 records where limits were exceeded were identified. He noted that the sheer number of values and cases made comprehending the results difficult. A walkthrough of the reliability results was conducted, via the use of heat maps, and questions addressed. The discussion concluded with the selection of the [acceptable configuration](#), i.e., the non-committed projects in the NTTG Initial Regional Transmission Plan (iRTP) and the prior Regional Transmission Plan (pRTP), that satisfied the performance criteria for economic evaluation.

REPORT

NTTG METRICS EVALUATION AND REGIONAL PLAN SELECTION

John Leland, NTTG Technical Advisor, provided an overview of NTTG's [metrics analysis](#) used to select the more efficient or cost effective regional plan. Mr. Leland reviewed the three metrics (capital related costs, losses and reserves) that were applied to the iRTP and the pRTP and the incremental cost assumptions that were used to select the pRTP as the 2018-2019 Draft Regional Transmission Plan.

Ms. Helms, NTTG's Program Manager noted that NTTG's 2018-2019 Draft Regional Transmission plan will be posted on the NTTG website and a notice sent to stakeholders informing them of the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft RTP for NTTG's consideration.

REPORT

POTENTIAL NEW REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Dave Angell, Idaho Power Delivery Planning Manager, provided an update on the efforts to establish a new Regional Planning Organization, recently named “NorthernGrid”, with the goal of consolidating the NTTG and ColumbiaGrid planning regions. The focus of Mr. Angell’s update was on the [NorthernGrid Progress Report](#) and the [utility commissions involvement](#) in the planning organization going forward. He noted that the proposed governance structure had been sent to state regulators in August.

Mr. Angell reported that the organization now has an approved funding framework, and they are working on drafting the Funding and Planning Agreements. Completion of Charters and governance documents is targeted for June 2019. Work is progressing on drafting Attachment K language, now targeted to be filed with FERC by March 29, 2019. A majority of ColumbiaGrid members have given notice of their intent to withdraw.

Mr. Angell reviewed the proposed governance structure which provides for involvement of state utility commissions, consumer advocates and transmission siting agencies via an advisory body, i.e., the State Transmission Planning Advisory Body (STPAB). This advisory body would receive information and could provide input, as advice. Mr. Angell commented that he had an opportunity to talk with Commissioner Clark who indicated that being in a position of providing input or advise was not something he was comfortable with. Either the Commission could provide influence via a vote or be out. Commissioner Kjellander echoed that opinion, noting that the Commissioners have been straight forward from the beginning stating their concern that states having a meaningful role, and an advisory committee does provide that opportunity. Larry Nordell stated that the consumer advocates worry that new cost allocation procedures are being established without any input from those entities that participated directly with NTTG’s cost allocation procedures. He is concerned with potential cost shifts to their constituents and stated he would like to see the development of processes opened to regulators and consumer advocacy groups.

Mr. Angell thanked the commissioners and consumer advocates for their clear feedback, noting nothing is final until the tariff is filed.

STAKEHOLDER COMMENT PERIOD

No additional comments or topics were offered.

ROUND TABLE/OTHER BUSINESS

Sharon Helms reminded members that NTTG is hosting the Western Planning Region's Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting which will be held in Salt Lake City on February 19th, 2019. 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