



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 19th day of December 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,
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Brian Fritz, NTTG Utility Co-Chair/PacifiCorp,
Bryce Freeman, Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocates,
Jared Ellsworth, proxy for Dave Joerger, Idaho Power Company,
Brad Johnson, Montana Public Service Commission,
Paul Kjellander, NTTG State Vice-Chair/Idaho Public Utilities Commission,
Larry Nordell, Montana Consumer Counsel, and
Nathan Powell, proxy for Phil Solomon, NTTG Utility Vice Chair/Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Michelle Beck, Utah Office of Consumer Services, Commissioner Kara Fornstrom, Wyoming Public Service Commission, Sumesh Gupta with MATL, and Andrew McLain, NorthWestern Energy Corporation, were absent and did not designate proxies.

The following guests were present:

Leslie Almond, PSE,
Robin Arnold, Montana PSC,
Dave Angell, NWPP,
Rich Bayless, CPS for NTTG,
James Branscomb, Wyoming PSC,
Nadine Hanhan, Oregon PUC,

Laura Hatfield, PSE,
Sharon Helms, CPS for NTTG,
Alan Hockenson, KBT Energy,
John Leland, CPS for NTTG,
Chelsea Loomis, Northwestern Energy and NTTG Planning Committee Chair,
Ron Schellberg, CPS for NTTG,
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 Jared Ellsworth, NTTG's Planning Committee Vice-Chair.

REPORT

NTTG 2019 ECONOMIC STUDY REQUEST

Mr. Ellsworth reported on [stakeholder comments submitted on the NTTG 2019 Economic Study Request \(“ESR”\)](#), [NTTG's responses](#) and the [resulting changes to the ESR Report](#). Mr. Ellsworth stated that the ESR Study concluded that there were annualized savings in the ESR configuration of \$271M compared to the Draft Regional Transmission Plan. He noted, however, that while the 345 kV option that was studied meets the needs in the 10-year horizon, it does not meet the needs immediately beyond 10 years and an additional project would be required to address those needs and stated that the 10-year study horizon is a limitation on the NTTG process. Marshall Empey stated that the 10-year horizon seemed inadequate and inquired as to whether there were constraints that prohibit the region from taking a longer view, more in line with Integrated Resource Plans. Mr. Angell stated that part of the issue is with the data set that is available. WECC develops both the production cost and Powerflow cases, and while they had a 20-year planning tool created in the TEPPC environment, it hasn't been updated. The other issue is with the uncertainty that comes with looking further out into the future. Mr. Ellsworth noted that NTTG did complete a sensitivity study for the Bridger retirement that was outside the planning cycle, and Ron Schellberg commented that robustness testing of 2000 and 4000 megawatts of additional resources was also completed to look at long range analysis.

Commissioner Clark offered his encouragement for consideration and responsiveness to longer term horizons for future transmission evaluations. The resource mix is changing rapidly and to not address the likelihood of significant differences coming to fruition in the 10-20 year horizon

seems to render what we've developed to be of marginal value. Commissioner Decker echoed her support for the value of considering a longer-term study period than the current 10 years.

REPORT

NTTG 2018-2019 REVISED DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLAN

Ms. Loomis, NTTG Planning Committee Chair, continued with a review of the 2018-2019 Revised Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan. The plan was posted for stakeholder comment on September 24, 2019. This report included revisions from the July 2019 stakeholder comments, as well as the 2019 Economic Study Report. NTTG received one set of stakeholder comments from the "Joint Parties" which were the same group that submitted comments on the ESR Report. Ms. Loomis stated that many of the comments were similar to those that were submitted for the ESR Report. Ms. Loomis reviewed the [comments and NTTG's responses](#) and informed members that no changes were made to the plan as a result of the comments.

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL OF THE 2018-2019 REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLAN

Commissioner Clark inquired whether there was any discussion before seeking a motion to approve the Regional Transmission Plan. Larry Nordell informed members that while he was not asking for a change in this cycles report, he was uncomfortable with the 'bottled energy' discussion, as it appears NTTG may have studied network vs. contract flows differently than we have in the past, and he was uneasy with the assumed need for additional capacity. Ms. Loomis acknowledged his request and stated that if the concept of bottled energy is raised in the future, either more time and discussion will be spent defining the concept or it will be removed.

On a motion by Commission Paul Kjellander and second by Jared Ellsworth, the resolution set forth below was adopted by the vote of two-thirds of the member representatives or alternates in each class that were present. Deseret Power voted to oppose approving the Plan, noting that their dissent was based on opinion that the Economic Study results provided evidence that there may be a more efficient or cost-effective transmission plan than the plan that is included in this report.

RESOLVED: That the 2018-219 NTTG Regional Transmission Plan be approved.

APPROVAL

Commissioner Clark requested a motion to approve the August 26, 2019 Steering Committee meeting notes. On motion by Commissioner Kjellander and second by Brian Fritz, the notes were unanimously approved.

REPORT

REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Shaun Foster, Portland General, informed parties that he was recently elected as the co-chair of the NorthernGrid Members Committee and would be providing today's update. He reported that the Funding Agreement was filed with FERC in August with a requested effective date of October 31, 2019. This filing has been approved by FERC. With that approval, NorthernGrid initiated a vendor selection process. NorthernGrid is very close to formally announcing the vendor but waiting on execution of all signatures to the vendor agreement before making the announcement.

Mr. Foster reported that the NorthernGrid FERC jurisdictional entities filed revised Attachment Ks reflecting the NorthernGrid transmission planning process with FERC on September 6, with a requested effective date of January 1, 2020. The prospective NorthernGrid members have had three conversations with FERC regarding the filing, and in each instance, FERC acknowledged an understanding of the schedule constraints. He noted that NorthernGrid's filings were not on FERC's docket for the December meeting, but the assumption is that FERC staff will try to get an order issued that will allow them to bridge the gap. NTTG members are exploring options for a transition plan if an order is not received prior to December 31, 2019.

STAKEHOLDER COMMENT PERIOD

Commissioner Clark took the opportunity to thank Jared and Chelsea for their assistance and leadership with the NTTG Planning Committee this cycle. He also thanked his Vice Chair, Commissioner Kjellander, and Brian Fritz, his co-chair for their support of NTTG, and closed by thanking Comprehensive Power Solutions for their support over the many years. He opened the floor for any additional closing comments. None were offered and Commissioner Clark declared the meeting adjourned.