



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
NORTHERN TIER STEERING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Northern Tier Transmission Group (“NTTG”) Steering Committee was held in South Jordan, Utah on the 20th day of July, 2016 at 10:00 am (MPT). Participation via web and phone conference was also available.

The meeting commenced with the following members and designated alternates present:

Travis Allen, MATL LLP,
Ray Brush, NTTG Utility Co-Chair/NorthWestern Energy Corporation,
David Clark, NTTG State Vice-Chair/Utah Public Service Commission,
Brian Fritz, proxy for Rick Vail, NTTG Utility Vice-Chair, PacifiCorp,
Travis Kavulla, NTTG State Co-Chair /Montana Public Service Commission,
Amy Light, proxy for Larry Bekkedahl, Portland General Electric,
Larry Nordell, Montana Consumer Counsel,
Adam Richins, Idaho Power Company,
Bill Russell, Wyoming Public Service Commission, and
Phil Solomon, Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Paul Kjellander, Idaho Public Utilities Commission, and John Savage, Public Utility Commission of Oregon were not in attendance and did not appoint a proxy.

The following guests were present:

Dave Angell, Idaho Power,
Rich Bayless, Northern Tier Transmission Group,
Gary DeShazo, California ISO
Sharon Helms, Northern Tier Transmission Group,
Bill Hosie, TransCanada,
Fred Heutte, Northwest Energy Coalition,
John Leland, Northern Tier Transmission Group,

Chelsea Loomis, Northwestern Energy,
Michael Manarovici, MATL,
Ron Schellberg, Northern Tier Transmission Group,
BJ Schubert, Northwestern Energy,
Jaimie Stamatson, Montana Consumer Counsel, and
Amy Wachsnicht, Northern Tier Transmission Group, and
Courtney Waites, Idaho Power.

Ray Brush reviewed the meeting agenda and deferred approval items to allow an opportunity for others to join and quorum requirements to be satisfied.

REPORT

2016-2017 NTTG Study Plan

Chelsea Loomis, NTTG's acting Planning Committee Chair, walked through the [Draft 2016-2017 Study Plan](#) that, if approved, will be the roadmap for the study process that the NTTG Planning Committee and Technical Workgroup will use to develop NTTG's ten-year Regional Transmission Plan. The study plan describes the methodology, criteria, assumptions and analysis tools that will be utilized by the Technical Workgroup in completing the analysis and relies on the loads, resources, transmission and other technical data that were submitted in Quarter 1.

Ms. Loomis walked thru the Draft Study Plan and following discussion it was determined that modifications should be made to 1) change Table 2 to reflect the 660 MW of coal reduction from the recent announcement of the retirement of Colstrip Units 1 and 2, and 2) as MATL recently joined NTTG as a Full Funder, the project submitted by MATL in Quarter 1 should be added to Table 3.

Following the lunch break, Marshall Empey, UAMPS, and Michelle Beck, Utah Office of Consumer Services, joined the meeting. Mr. Brush requested a roll call be conducted and it was confirmed that quorum requirements were satisfied and consent items could now be addressed.

A motion by Larry Nordell to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2016 NTTG Steering Committee meeting was seconded by Phil Solomon and approved. The minutes will be posted on Northern Tier's website.

REPORT

2016-2017 NTTG RESPONSE TO STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS ON THE 2016-2017 STUDY PLAN

Chelsea Loomis, Acting Planning Committee Chair and Amy Light, Cost Allocation Committee Chair, described the public process that was provided to allow stakeholders with the opportunity to submit [written comments](#) on the Draft 2016-2017 Study Plan. Members were briefed on NTTG's responses to the comments and the reasoning for the revisions that were and were not subsequently incorporated into the Study Plan.

RESOLUTION

APPROVAL OF THE 2016-2017 NTTG STUDY PLAN

A motion by Phil Solomon to approve the NTG 2016-2017 Study Plan, as amended during the meeting, was seconded by Commissioner David Clark and unanimously ADOPTED.

REPORT

WECC ANCHOR DATA SET DEVELOPMENT REPORT

John Leland, NTTG's Technical Advisor, reported on the development of the WECC Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC) Anchor Data Set (ADS) that is intended to provide a common starting point with consistent data assumptions for all production cost model and powerflow model datasets used by TEPPC, the Planning Coordination Committee (PCC) and the each of the four Western Planning Regions. Mr. Leland's briefing focused on providing members with an understanding of the Western Planning Regions' [process and timeline](#) requirements to develop the initial 2028 Anchor Data Set. Mr. Leland noted that once implemented, NTTG should benefit substantially as there no longer should be a need to correct bad data every cycle, the ADS will be compatible with other regions for interregional coordination, and the topology in the ten-year power flow and production cost cases should be the same which will result in more consistent results and increased credibility of the work effort.

Mr. Leland also reported on the [Western Planning Regions' version of ADS vetting opportunities](#). He noted that this document is still a draft and another version is also being circulated. The goal is to have a combined document that discusses the ADS vetting process.

REPORT

NTTG ASSESSMENT OF THE 2026 COMMON CASE

Ron Schellberg, NTTG's Technical Workgroup Project Manager, reported on NTTG's assessment of the recently released 2026 Common Case. Mr. Schellberg briefed members on the Technical Workgroup's efforts to evaluate the case, the errors and inconsistencies that have been uncovered, the concerns with the delay in releasing the data and the fact that the power flow case has not been provided. Mr. Schellberg reported that the Technical Workgroup still anticipate using the round-trip analysis in the development of the NTTG Regional Transmission Plan, but significant effort may be required to accomplish the task as the fallback would be to rely on a prior data set and update the assumptions.

REPORT

WECC RELIABILITY ASSESSMENT PROPOSAL

Dave Angell, Idaho Power and TEPPC PCC Vice Chair, provided an overview of the [Joint PCC and TEPPC Review Task Force](#) that is tasked with assessing the structure of the committees and to develop a recommendation that ensures efficiencies between TEPPC and PPC. After walking through the presentation, Mr. Angell noted that comments are due by August 25th and will be posted in September. The PPC will vote on the Anchor Data Set and structure of the Reliability Assessment Committee at the October meeting.

REPORT

REGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING ORGANIZATION ASSESSMENT


Ray Brush, Regional Transmission Policy Manager, Northwestern Energy, briefed members on an effort that has been initiated by NTTG and ColumbiaGrid funding members to assess the potential benefits of having a single planning organization in the west, and how it might be structured. Mr. Brush noted that a concern is how to construct an organization so that the non-jurisdictional entities would participate in the Order 1000 process. The group is considering hiring a facilitator that would support the effort. Meetings are scheduled to consider the Order 1000 implications to a joint organization and comments have been requested on whether to proceed with hiring a facilitator.

STAKEHOLDER COMMENT PERIOD

No additional comments or topics were offered.

ROUND TABLE/OTHER BUSINESS

Sharon Helms requested that members respond to the email request to identify a date for the September Steering Committee. No additional comments or topics were offered. There being no further action, the meeting adjourned.

By: 

Sharon Helms, NTTG Project Manager



Approved:

Ray Brush, NTTG Utility Co-Chair



Approved:

Travis Kavulla, NTTG State Co-Chair