

Description of Meeting:	NTTG Planning Committee
Meeting Date:	January 14, 2015
Meeting Notes Prepared By:	Amy Wachsnicht
Approved for Posting:	February 11, 2015

1. Agenda:

- a. Approved December 10, 2014 Meeting Notes
- b. Status of FERC Order No. 1000 Filings
- c. Public Policy Study Plan Comments
- d. Draft Regional Transmission Plan Comment Process
- e. WECC 10-year Light Load Power Flow Case
- f. Q5 Data Submission and Study Request
- g. Round Table/Other Business

2. Discussions & Decisions:

Discussion: Agenda Review

- During the agenda review, Bob Decker informed the committee, he had received a notice of a Planning Region Coordination meeting scheduled for February 26, 2015 with the representatives of the regional planning regions gathering to discuss the planning coordination in the west. He was curious if this meeting would be covered under a specific agenda topic of the meeting or if it was relevant to the Planning Committee.
 - Dave Angell indicated this item was relevant to the Planning Committee and intended to cover this topic under the "Round Table/Other Business" section.

Decision: Approve December 10, 2014 Meeting Notes

- It was noted that quorum requirements had been met in both Class 1 and Class 2 but not met in Class 3.
 - Due to quorum requests not fully satisfied, Dave Angell postponed the approval of the December 10, 2014 meeting notes for later in the agenda or at the next meeting if no other member representative of Class 3 joined.
- Amy Wachsnicht, later informed Dave Angell that Jerry Maio, with the UT PSC had joined in late, satisfying quorum requirements for Class 3.
- Before approval of the meeting notes, Bob Decker informed the committee, that in reading the suggested edits to the December 10th meeting notes he reached out to Sharon Helms and Amy Wachsnicht regarding the edits and if they were to be a reflection of actual communication that happened during the meeting.
 - Dave Angell informed Bob and the committee the reason for naming the meeting notes as "notes" indicate they are a generalization of the discussion to help the committee in remembering what was discussed and not intended to be a set of minutes capturing every transaction and discussion.
- With a motion by Craig Quist and a second by Jerry Maio, the December 10, 2014 meeting notes were unanimously approved for posting.

Discussion: Status of FERC Order No. 1000 Filings

- In December the regions received a somewhat favorable order on their interregional filings.
 - NTTG's legal counsel, Malcolm McLellan, along with Don Kari and Mike Andrea of ColumbiaGrid, drafted proposed generic language in response to FERC's requirement that the regions change their tariffs to incorporate CAISO's cost allocation language and was distributed to the legal counsel of the other regions.

- Prior to taking action on the proposed generic modifications to the common tariff language, Robin Nuschler, legal counsel for WestConnect, indicated a preference to see how the CAISO addressed their language for applying a cost allocation.
 - At this time the regions are waiting to see the draft language from CAISO. Sharon Helms and Malcolm McLellan will coordinate with NTTG to discuss the option of either all regions incorporating changes to the common tariff language or if only CAISO has tariff changes and the other regions will submit only a filing letter.
 - The deadline for filing a response to FERC is February 17, 2015.
- The hope is to have an update on the interregional filing for the next NTTG Planning Committee meeting in February.
- Regarding NTTG's regional filing, FERC ordered to make a small change. This was done and filed by the NTTG utilities on December 30, 2014.
- NTTG is hosting the upcoming February 26, 2015 Interregional Coordination meeting in Portland, OR.
 - An agenda is still being developed in light of the order from FERC which addresses CAISO and some changes from ColumbiaGrid, but doesn't seem to affect the interregional process.
 - It is possible the coordination meeting will focus on the Order 1000 interregional process and how the regions will put in place procedures to help comply with providing and coordinating information.
 - The four regions will also bring their transmission plans, assumptions for the next cycle and possible changes in load and resources.
 - There could also be discussion on how the regions will interface with WECC.
 - At this time NTTG has not taken a final position regarding the relationship with WECC as there is still discussion between NTTG and the other regions.

Discussion: Public Policy Study Plan Comments

- NTTG received comments from NRDC, Sierra Club and the NW Energy Coalition on the draft Public Policy Consideration Study Plan.
- John Leland gave the committee a brief description of the original Public Policy Consideration request.
- The study plan looked at using the 2014 data base NTTG developed for the planning process and would run powerflow studies.
 - It was noted in the study plan that in Montana the general issue is that of a dynamic response of the Colstrip units to outage conditions and it would be ideal to look at a dynamic analysis.
 - However NTTG will not be looking at a dynamic analysis due to the fact that the technical file is not available and would be a large undertaking to develop the file.
 - Within NorthWestern Energy there is good understanding in terms of what needs to be done and will be simulating the outages through powerflow analysis.
 - The potential of dynamic analysis was noted in the study plan, however that analysis would have to be in additional studies.
- The comments received from stakeholders, in summary, seem to be urging NTTG that if analysis from the powerflow does point to the need for potential dynamic analysis they requested it be pursued.
- Next steps include drafting and responding to the individual stakeholder comments in the near future.

Discussion: Draft Regional Transmission Plan Comment Process

- A notice will be sent by the following week to open up a three week comment period on the Draft Regional Transmission Plan.

Discussion: WECC 10-year Light Load Power Flow Case

- WestConnect has been considering the need for a light load case in the 10 year planning horizon.
- WECC currently produces a heavy load case but not a light load case.
 - If all of the regions are in support of WECC doing a light load case it could mean that WECC would need to drop a case in order to accommodate the need for the request.
- Dave Angell asked if the committee had any insight or recommendation if NTTG should support the 10 year light load case or not.
- The understanding is that WestConnect is asking WECC to do the study this year so that it would be available for the 2016-2017 planning cycle.
- Jamie Austin indicated that she was in the process of planning with WECC and TEPPC a case that has both high and low sensitivities and a meeting was scheduled for January 27th to focus on generating the sensitivity assumptions to be used. The hope is to have the data available after and if NTTG would want to use that data to build its cases it would be made available.
- The powerflow cases created by WECC are inside their technical committees which is separate from the production cost model (PCM) and TEPPC.
 - TEPPC creates the studies that NTTG can use; however most of the regions are not using that TEPPC data to create powerflow cases. They use the powerflow cases created by the technical committees of WECC making it a separate case that is generated.
- If NTTG continues to use the round trip from the PCM to develop its powerflow cases it could be enhanced by whatever activities TEPPC and WECC are doing.
 - It was suggested that with respect to the powerflow case WestConnect is requesting of WECC, NTTG could put a caveat on the request that NTTG would also suggest a tie between the WECC powerflow case and the TEPPC PCM data so there is not a translation disconnect.
- The discussion was summarized as:
 - If NTTG were to proceed with its normal case creation, then NTTG would not need a powerflow case due to the fact that NTTG could generate what it needs off the PCM.
 - However that doesn't mean that NTTG cannot support WestConnect in their request to WECC.
- Craig Quist indicated that the NTTG Technical Workgroup (TWG) would be discussing this request further at their next meeting and will bring it back to the Planning Committee after their discussion and more research is done.

Discussion: Q5 Data Submission and Study Request

- Quarter 5 opens the opportunity to have stakeholders submit economic study requests.
 - These are due by March 30, 2015.
- There is also an opportunity in Quarter 5 for updates to any projects or load and resource data to be submitted.
 - These are due by March 31, 2015.
- Official notices will be sent for both economic study requests and updated data submission with letters holding the details.

Discussion: Round Table/Other Business

- The February 26, 2015 Interregional Coordination meeting was covered during an earlier agenda topic.
- The next meeting of the NTTG Planning Committee is scheduled for February 3, 2015.
- Dave Angell indicated if time allows in the schedule for discussion on the light load cases, and it is found that a decision needs to be made by the NTTG Planning Committee earlier than the next scheduled meeting, there is the potential for email discussion, but the intent will be to discuss at the February meeting.



3. Assignments:

Item #	Assignment	Owner	Target Date	Status
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

Next Meeting: The next Northern Tier Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 11th at 1PM Pacific.

- Dial: **(626) 425-3121**
- Access Code: **432-608-245**

Attendees:

NTTG Planning Committee Member Representatives

Membership Class 1		
Dave Angell, Chair, Idaho Power	Chelsea Loomis, NorthWestern	Jim Tucker, Deseret
Bill Hose, TransCanada	Craig Quist, PacifiCorp	Scott Waples, Avista Corp
Don Johnson, Portland General		

Membership Class 2

Marshall Empey, UAMPS	Bill Pascoe, Absaroka Energy	Dan Wheeler, Gaelectric
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Membership Class 3

Bob Decker, MT PSC	Jerry Maio, UT PSC	Marci Norby, WY PSC
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Other NTTG Members & Guests

Jamie Austin, PacifiCorp	Haik Gugrauts, Argus Media	John Leland, NTTG
Gil Coulam, NTTG	Sharon Helms, NTTG	Amy Wachsnicht, NTTG