

Description of Meeting:	NTTG Planning Committee
Meeting Date:	September 9, 2015
Meeting Notes Prepared By:	Amy Wachsnicht
Approved for Posting:	October 13, 2015

1. Agenda:

- a. Approve August 12, 2015 Planning Committee Meeting Notes
- b. Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan Review
- c. WECC CCTA Common Case 2026 Data Request
- d. TEPPC Role in Beneficiary Identification and Cost Allocation
- e. Status Update: UAMPS Comments on the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan
- f. Round Table/Other Business

2. Discussions & Decisions:

Decision: Approve August 12, 2015 Planning Committee Meeting Notes

- With a motion by John Chatburn and seconded by Dave Walker, the August 12, 2015 Planning Committee meeting notes were unanimously approved for posting by all three classes.

Discussion: Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan Review

- Dave Angell gave a high level overview of NTTG's draft final Regional Transmission Plan. In past cycles the reports were around 100 pages with a lot of detail and a substantial list of appendices. Along with the detailed reports, NTTG created summary reports which were mailed to state regulatory agencies and stakeholders.
- The focus of the report for the 2014-2015 biennial cycle was to create a single report of approximately 20 pages with a level of detail appropriate for stakeholders and links to the appropriate appendices. NTTG will rely on the appendices for the details.
- Prior cycle reports included details on the analysis performed and how projects submitted by stakeholders were sufficient to meet the load and resources of the planning horizon. With regard to this cycle's report, the focus is around the process to develop the transmission plan, what is included in the final transmission plan and that cost allocation did not result in an actual allocation but the whole process was utilized.
- Dave Angell indicated that he wanted to bring the report to the NTTG Planning Committee for feedback on the content prior to posting it for stakeholder comment.
 - The goal was to post the report for comment on Friday, September 11th.
- Marshall Empey restated the question he asked during the earlier Cost Allocation Committee meeting regarding attachments as none were showing. If there were to be attachments, he requested a list of the attachments be sent out.
 - Dave Angell commented that he envisioned the table of contents would have a list of the attachments. When he put together the outline for the report, he identified in each section the attachment that would be a part of that section.
- Prior to posting the report for stakeholder comment, an effort will be made to include the list of attachments which could include links to the NTTG website. Dave Angell will need to confirm the list of appendices prior to them being included in the report.
- Sharon Helms appended Dave Angell's comment regarding the open comment period. She indicated the open comment period would be through September 24th or 25th depending on when it is posted, but she is intending to post it on Thursday, September 10th.
- Sharon Helms also commented that NTTG will not have time to draft responses to stakeholder comments received prior to the NTTG Stakeholder meeting on September 29th but the intent is to review and discuss comments received at that stakeholder meeting.

Discussion: WECC CCTA Common Case 2026 Data Request

- Transmission providers should have received a letter from TEPPC/WECC requesting CCTA data information for 2026. The obligation to submit the data is primarily for transmission providers or merchant developers that have a transmission consideration or option for 2026.
- NTTG sent a letter requesting the CCTA be done at the end of the year.
- In the final stages of the report for the NTTG biennial plan includes a sponsored project, Boardman to Hemmingway (B2H). It is assumed that Idaho Power the project sponsor, will send in their updates to that project. Along with B2H, the report includes an Alternative Project that is not an exact replacement for the Energy Gateway project in the initial plan, but met the needs for the studies in 2024.
- John Leland asked Planning Committee members from a regional perspective, if the Alternative Project should be submitted as a CCTA item. He suggested the project could be submitted because it was identified in the plan, however there is no information beyond what the NTTG Planning Committee identified.
- Dave Angell suggested that since the Alternative Project is a portion of the Energy Gateway project, NTTG could identify to WECC those portions of Energy Gateway that were selected into the NTTG Regional Plan. He believed additional data would not be needed since PacifiCorp had already supplied the Energy Gateway information to WECC and it is already in the portal. He also commented there was a responsibility for NTTG to identify the portions being required by 2024 from a regional transmission planning perspective.
- Dave Angell asked if the Energy Gateway project was submitted to WECC segment by segment.
 - Craig Quist confirmed and added that the pieces of Energy Gateway included in the Alternative Project were west of Populus and included all of Energy Gateway with the exception of Segment E.
- John Leland will work with Gil Coulam to draft a response to TEPPC indicating NTTG included in its plan, a portion of the Gateway project and specify what was identified in the plan.

Discussion: TEPPC Role in Beneficiary Identification and Cost Allocation

- During the last TEPPC meeting there was a discussion regarding TEPPC's role in identifying beneficiaries or benefits associated with interconnection wide (interregional) projects and some thought there could a role for TEPPC in providing information. The discussion seemed to have some enthusiasm and may be discussed at the next meeting on what TEPPC's role is or if there is a role for TEPPC to help the regions on beneficiary identification.
- John Leland indicated that his reasoning for bringing the conversation up to the NTTG Planning Committee was to see if there were any reactions. If there is further discussion at TEPPC, John Leland suggested he could just listen, provide comments and inputs to the desire of NTTG.
- Craig Quist asked what TEPPC would bring that each of the regional entities don't already currently do.
 - John Leland indicated that TEPPC has a lot of experience in production cost modeling (PCM) and if their base case was in tune with the regional results or topology, it is possible TEPPC could provide their expertise.
 - NTTG does have PMC capability among its members, however for those regions who do not have that luxury, they could lean on TEPPC to assist.
- Dave Angell indicated that if TEPPC were to go down the path of defining beneficiaries in the West, and types of benefits, it would be important to make sure that is consistent with what NTTG thinks the beneficiaries are and with Order 1000.
- Sharon Helms also indicated that Order 1000 says one cannot allocate benefits or costs to other regions involuntary and that is why it supports each regions processes.

- Dave Angell's concern was that the focus of TEPPC is the long spanning transmission projects that would touch multiple regions. They would be coming up with beneficiaries and amounts of benefit in various regions which can be problematic because it could give stakeholders the impression there should be an allocation from one region towards another.
- It is believed that TEPPC would not be allocating anything, but help in identifying beneficiaries for projects which could be a potential conflict if it differs from the regions findings.
- Bill Hosie commented that he had participated in the TEPPC meeting as well, but had heard a different concept. He indicated he didn't hear the beneficiary identification component but a strong desire from members to look at alternatives and make a general determination of benefits not specific benefits and would not identify beneficiaries.
 - There is an opportunity for new ideas to be looked at which could include renewables and generation. TEPPC would look at those and make an assessment of the benefits and beneficiaries to the Western Interconnection.
 - There is a strong voice that independent project should not be looked at, where as there are others who feel TEPPC is the place where independent projects are looked at because the regional processes don't really have an opportunity for that.
- Chelsea Loomis made a comment that she would be very uncomfortable with TEPPC identifying cost allocation for the regions.
 - Bill Hosie indicated that he did not hear anyone talk about using TEPPC for cost allocation but having an understanding of the Western Interconnection benefits of alternatives and generation.
- Dave Angell gave John Leland the action item to keep an eye on where the discussion is heading and to keep NTTG posted.

Discussion: Status Update: UAMPS Comments on the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan

- Craig Quist gave an update on where PacifiCorp was with responding to UAMPS comments.
 - PacifiCorp has had two internal meetings as well as reached out to John Leland for input with the goal to sit down with UAMPS within the next month to discuss their comments.
- PacifiCorp is taking this as an opportunity to review their internal processes and identify any possible holes as well as making sure to effectively communicate with UAMPS on their findings and make recommendations.
- Before PacifiCorp sits down with UAMPS, they will run the materials by members of NTTG, so that the information from an NTTG stand point is open and aides in a thorough discussion.
- After the sit down discussion with UAMPS, PacifiCorp will share the information and materials with the broader NTTG Planning Committee and others as necessary.
- Marshall Empey indicated that he appreciated the update and looks forward to the sit down with PacifiCorp to discuss the process and a chance to give his point of view. He also indicated that he thought it would be beneficial to have the other Transmission Owners of NTTG at the meeting.
 - For example, one of the reasons Marshall Empey brought his comments up to NTTG was because of the Asset Exchange between Idaho Power and PacifiCorp. Transmission where UAMPS might interconnect is now jointly owned. He indicated that it was hard to say if this was a local or regional planning issue with the Asset Transmission Exchange.
 - Dave Angell indicated that once a meeting is scheduled he will see if a representative from Idaho Power could be there.

Discussion: Round Table/Other Business

- Dave Angell informed the committee that October 1st is the opportunity to submit the sponsor pre-qualification information for cost allocation on projects for the next biennial cycle.



- A letter with additional information will be distributed to stakeholders prior to October 1st.
- Sharon Helms added that October 1st is also the effective date for the interregional process and anyone wanting to submit an interregional project for cost allocation would also need to submit the sponsor pre-qualification information into the NTTG regional process.
- The next NTTG Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for September 29th in Bozeman, MT.
- The next Planning Committee meeting, on October 14th conflicts with the WECC PCC Standing meeting.
 - Dave Angell will look at an alternative date for the October Planning Committee meeting. Once a date has been selected, the information will be sent out to the NTTG Planning Committee members.

3. Assignments:

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

Next Meeting: The next Northern Tier Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 13th at 9:00AM 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 Hosie, TransCanada	Craig Quist, PacifiCorp	

Membership Class 2

Marshall Empey, UAMPS		
-----------------------	--	--

Membership Class 3

Bob Decker, MT PSC	John Chatburn, ID OER	David Walker, WY PSC
John Chatburn, ID PUC (Proxy)		

Other NTTG Members & Guests

Gil Coulam, NTTG	John Leland, NTTG	Matt Wiggs, ID OER
Sharon Helms, NTTG	Amy Wachsnicht, NTTG	