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| Description of Meeting: | NTTG Planning Committee |
| Meeting Date: | November 18, 2015 |
| Meeting Notes Prepared By: | Amy Wachsnicht |
| Approved for Posting: | December 14, 2015 |

1. Agenda:

- a. Welcome, establish quorum and agenda review
- b. Approval of October 13, 2015 Joint Planning & Cost Allocation Committee Meeting Notes
- c. NTTG's Project Sponsor Pre-Qualification Window Update
- d. Wyoming Public Service Commission request to study the reliability impacts of replacing all coal generation in the NW with existing gas units and renewable generation
 - i. **Approval Item:** NTTG's Response to the WY PSC Inquiry Concerning EPA 111(d)
- e. UAMPS Comments (submitted out of time) on the NTTG Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan
 - i. Update on discussions between UAMPS and PacifiCorp
 - ii. **Approval Item:** NTTG's Response to UAMPS Comments on the 2014-2015 Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan
- f. Update on Region's request to TEPPC for a 2026 Common Case with Round Trip Capability
- g. Round Table/Other Business
 - i. December 9, 2015 Planning Committee Meeting
 1. Planning Committee Chair and Vice Chair Elections

2. Discussions & Decisions:

Decision: Approval of October 13, 2015 Joint Planning & Cost Allocation Committee Meeting Notes

- With a motion by Chelsea Loomis and second by Don Johnson, the October 13, 2015 Joint Planning and Cost allocation Committee meeting notes were **unanimously approved** by all three Planning Committee classes.

Discussion: NTTG's Project Sponsor Pre-Qualification Window Update

- The submission window for a project sponsor to submit their pre-qualification data for the next biennial planning cycle opens in Quarter 8 of the previous planning cycle.
 - For the 2016-2017 Biennial Planning Cycle, that window opened October 1, 2015 and closed October 31, 2015.
 - NTTG did not receive any project sponsor pre-qualification data submissions.
- Subsequent to the window closing, NTTG received a question from LS Power inquiring on the process for submitting an interregional project for cost allocation.
 - NTTG's legal workgroup is working on a response.
- At this time NTTG does not have any projects that will be considered for cost allocation in the 2016-2017 Biennial Planning cycle as there is no entity who pre-qualified.

Discussion: Wyoming Public Service Commission request to study the reliability impacts of replacing all coal generation in the NW with existing gas units and renewable generation

- A request was received from Dave Walker to assess some scenarios concerning the reduction of coal-fired generation and ramping up the gas-fired generation with respect to the EPA 111(d), as well as what would be the results in terms of reliability.
- The assumptions outlined by NTTG included:
 - All existing coal-fired generation ceased by 2027.

- All existing gas-fired generation operating at 75% of its capacity by 2027 and assuming no new gas-fired generation.
 - Renewable generation may be added at any location, but must be supported by existing facilities.
- Trevor Shultz of Idaho Power and a member of NTTG's Technical Workgroup took the lead on the study and used data that was readily available from the 2014-2015 Technical Workgroup data that had already been developed.
 - It was decided to look at reliability as a load and resource balance, what is the load, what would be the available generation for these loads and if there was a surplus in generation.
- Three power flow cases were used in the study:
 - Conditions with maximum NTTG footprint net export
 - Peak coincident summer load within NTTG footprint
 - Peak coincident winter load within NTTG footprint
- There was not a readily available way to extract the NTTG load and resources, but the cases represented an area in the northwest broader than NTTG. Three tables were created showing the results:
 - Table 1 shows the load and resource balance as it existed without any changes to the cases.
 - Table 2 removed the coal-fired generation and 75% of gas-fired generation.
 - Table 3 removed the coal-fired generation and had the gas-fire output at 100%.
- Caveats were given indicating the results were based on the readily available data and limited to a load and resource balance perspective only and that reliability-related concerns were not taken into account.
- Regarding the assumption of no new gas, Jerry Maio asked what was the rationale and where was the scenario taken from.
 - Trevor Schultz indicated the assumption regarding how gas is dispatched was from David Walker's request.
 - Dave Angell added this was the 2024 case and incorporates the planned facilities by the companies out in 2024 as submitted to WECC in their load and resource balance. This was a TEPPC case and layered on top is all of the forecasted wind and solar vetted through the TEPPC process to determine what generation resources are likely to occur in 2024 from the TEPPC perspective.
- Dave Walk indicated the way they read the Clean Power Plan rule and within the technical documents there is a document where EPA went year by year with how they saw coal in the various areas. They assumed the least stringent area being the East then they stepped into the West. The West starts to lose coal in the year building block two in 2026. The underlying documentation said the existing gas plants may be increased in capacity to 75%. Gas plants were not added because of the constraints to the gas delivery system.
 - The technical support documents tended to look WECC as a whole which is broader than NTTG. Wyoming is split between NTTG and other regions and Dave Walker indicated they may ask other regions to look at this as well.
- Fred Heutte inquired when the request for the study was submitted and if other groups could submit these types of requests with other parameters that look at a similar issue.
 - Dave Angell indicated the request was submitted via email around September 2015 asking if there was anyone who could do a quick assessment of what would happen with 111(d) by taking all the coal plants off. NTTG came up with taking the existing cases to see what would happen by removing coal. This was not an in-depth study.
- Fred Heutte indicated that a Public Policy Consideration study was done on the potential retirement of Coal Strip and replacing it with wind. The Clean Power Plan has the building blocks for setting the compliance goal, but not what needs to be done to achieve compliance. He felt it was important for NTTG to respond to these requests for the Clean Power Plan studies. He asked if there was a way of looking at it in more detail as the Clean Power Plan

may have used criteria on new gas re-dispatch and as coal gets retired it is important for the appropriate resource mix to be in place, and different options to be looked at with reliability being front and center.

- Dave Angell commented that this request opens the door for creative thinking on what Public Policy Consideration requests could be submitted for 2016. He encouraged Fred Heutte to start having dialog with the NTTG Planning Committee through email to see if collectively, a reasonable study can be done for the next cycle.
 - The window for submitting Public Policy Consideration requests opens on January 1, 2016 with data needing to be submitted by January 31, 2016.
- Craig Quist asked if this study could be viewed as a bookend study.
 - Dave Walker indicated they had taken it as a bookend study coming directly from what they read in the 111(d) technical studies. The only thing that didn't match up was the years of studies that NTTG had.
- David Walker thanked Dave Angell and the NTTG Technical Workgroup for doing the studies. A lot of the elements regarding reliability in 111(d) are left to the states. For the state of Wyoming there are two people on staff to do these which can make it nearly impossible and there is a need to rely on those with boarder staff.
 - Dave Angell indicated this could be a process going forward of working out how as a region with stakeholder input, NTTG can provide useful data.

Decision: *Approval Item:* NTTG's Response to the WY PSC Inquiry Concerning EPA 111(d)

- Jerry Maio inquired on what was being approved.
 - Dave Angell indicated the approval was for NTTG's response and that the Planning Committee supports the analysis done by Trevor Schultz through Technical Workgroup review and the document as written.
- With a motion by Dave Walker and second by Craig Quist, NTTG's Response to the WY PSC Inquiry Concerning EPA 111(d) was **unanimously approved** by Class 1 & Class 2.
 - Jerry Maio abstained.

Discussion: UAMPS Comments (submitted out of time) on the NTTG Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan

- PacifiCorp and UAMPS met last week to address the comments UAMPS submitted to NTTG out of time of the comment period for the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan.
 - PacifiCorp took the lead as UAMPS had indicated in their comments some concerns relative to PacifiCorp's planning process. There were also comments addressed to NTTG.
- Craig Quist gave a high level overview of the presentation PacifiCorp put together for their meeting with UAMPS. A few of the slide were relative to NTTG.
 - Key items:
 - PacifiCorp Loads and Recourses Process including the Carbon Free Power Project (CFPP) resource, which is a new technology that is being evaluated at the Idaho Nuclear Lab near Idaho Falls. This was submitted by UAMPS in the load and resource data.
 - PacifiCorp Local Transmission Planning Process
 - Requirements for LGI Studies
 - NTTG Regional Transmission Planning Process
 - PacifiCorp is making changes to their load and resource spread sheet to show the requirements and changes in resources 10-years out.
- Craig Quist reviewed a flow chart within the presentation that showed PacifiCorp's Transmission Planning Process (Slide 17).
 - The blue shows the process for doing transmission service requests and generator interconnection request. In the PacifiCorp process it comes up and across through the LGI process.

- Projects in the 1-5 year timeframe that make it through the process would be considered in the near term local transmission plan.
- The orange indicates the loads and resource process which shows loads coming into the WECC base cases and into the Attachment K and Regional Attachment K base cases.
 - Two items were added in green showing that PacifiCorp will take the resources in the 6-10 year timeframe and evaluate them for a long term selection. There will be a preliminary long term connectivity analysis where PacifiCorp will determine what is necessary to connect the resource to the system.
 - In this case for the resource in Idaho, it is anticipated it would require a new 345kV line to Midpoint and another one to Goshen.
- Marshall Empey indicated that as Craig Quist described, both the long term resource additions and resource retirements in the transmission plan were missing. He will continue to work with PacifiCorp to fill in the details, but felt this will be a better transmission planning process for their load and resource submittals.
- John Leland reviewed NTTG's response to UAMPS comments. The response was a result of the last Planning Committee meeting where there was discussion on NTTG's portion of the comments.
 - As a result of the discussion, NTTG will be removing some of the attachments to the Regional Transmission Plan but will keep the Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan as a point of reference and history.
 - A point of clarification was added that NTTG cannot circumvent or replace the process of the Transmission Provides, NTTG can only use the information provided by them for certain studies.
- Marshall Empey indicated a typo in NTTG's response that the acronym of "DFPP" should be "CFPP".
 - This change was made during the meeting.
- Marshall Empey inquired about the Asset Exchange between PacifiCorp and Idaho Power and if the line going into Antelope is jointly owned. He asked if there was anything in the Attachment K on the process for submitting and would it be submitted to the local plans and then up to NTTG?
 - John Leland indicated that the submission would still be to the local plan. Part of the point of clarification for submission of a generating unit into NTTG's regional planning process was that unless it (the generating unit) is potentially a replacement for an uncommitted project that is in NTTG transmission plan then what is the need in NTTG's plan? He suggested to work through PacifiCorp and Idaho Power and their local planning processes to get this need established through their load and resource studies and provide that information to both WECC and NTTG to get it in next cycle.

Decision: *Approval Item:* NTTG's Response to UAMPS Comments on the 2014-2015 Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan

- With a motion by Craig Quist and second by Dave Walker, NTTG's Response to UAMPS Comments on the 2014-2015 Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan were **unanimously approved** by all three classes.

Discussion: Update on Region's request to TEPPC for a 2026 Common Case with Round Trip Capability

- Back in August, NTTG along with the other planning regions sent a request to TEPPC to complete the 2026 Common Case and Round Trip Capability by the end of Quarter 1, 2016 including dynamic analysis.
- NTTG has been working to get the Round Trip Capability to a state that is more user friendly. This has been done and shared with WECC. Jamie Austin has spent time with WECC to help them understand the model.

- During the last TEPPC meeting, Jamie Austin and John Leland met with WECC staff and Byron Woertz which resulted in getting WECC better understanding and hopefully support. WECC has committed to have the 2026 Common Case completed by the end of Quarter 1, 2016 and are targeting to have the Round Trip Capability completed as well by March 31, 2016.
 - At this time the process for dynamics will be subsequent to March 31, 2016. Through discussions with Bryon Woertz, it is expressed that this will be sufficient as long as it is completed by the end of Quarter 2, 2016.
- During the last RPCG meeting there was support by the utilities as well as general support from TEPPC.
 - Following the RPCG meeting, NTTG was asked to put together a paper to describe the Round Trip Capability and answer two of WECC's questions:
 - What is the functionality you expect out of this process?
 - How with this data be used?
 - John Leland and Jamie Austin are in the process of drafting the paper and will be looking for input from the other planning regions.
- It is felt that good progress has been made, and there is a push to complete additional pieces of the process WECC will need to get the Round Trip Capability completed.
- Jamie Austin commented that in the light of the work NTTG did regarding the Wyoming PSC reliability question, it sets NTTG up with the 2026 case moving forward to be able to do the full complement of addressing the reliability question with not only power flow but stability analysis as well.
 - There are questions that have not been addressed with the analysis especially the implications of reliability.
 - The regions are moving from the conventional system to something new, and the concern is having the best process in place to address the concerns.

Discussion: Round Table/Other Business

- Nominations for the Planning Committee Chair and Vice-Chair will be voted on during the December Planning Committee meeting.
- The next NTTG Steering Committee meeting has been scheduled for the morning of Thursday, December 17, 2015 in Salt Lake City, UT at the Radisson hotel. The Steering Committee will vote to approve the Regional Transmission Plan.
 - In the afternoon following the Steering Committee meeting NTTG will be having their Quarter 8 Stakeholder meeting.
- Due to scheduling conflicts, the December 9th Planning Committee meeting will be rescheduled.
 - A doodle poll will be sent to the committee with proposed dates and times.
- Sharon Helms gave a brief update on the Interregional Coordination:
 - Sharon reminded parties that the window for a proponent wanting to submit an interregional project opens on January 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016. For an interregional project to be considered, it must be submitted into each of the relevant planning region's regional planning process.
 - More detail will be given during the December 17, 2015 NTTG Stakeholder meeting.
 - The Annual Coordination meeting has been scheduled for February 25, 2016 and is hosted by WestConnect. At this time a location has not been selected, but the regions are looking to hold the meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.
 - The regions have developed a set of common pro-forma Interregional Transmission Coordination Procedures. These will document and describe each region's commitment to and the process for coordinating its regional planning data with and among the other western planning regions.
 - WestConnect and the CAISO are planning to incorporate the procedures into their business practices before the end of the year.

- NTTG is having the Legal Workgroup review the procedures to decide if they will be implemented as NTTG procedures that would either be approved by the Planning and Cost Allocation Committees or by the Steering Committee or if the procedures will be put into a business practice manual.
 - The hope is to have a response from legal by early December with an update following to the other regions on NTTG's decision.
- Chelsea Loomis indicated she sent an email to the NTTG funders asking for participation for the Technical Workgroup taskforce she is co-Chairing with John Martinsen of ColumbiaGrid. She encouraged those who have not had a chance to review the email, to do so and respond to her indicating if there will be participation or if there is no interest.
 - Sharon Helms elaborated that ColumbiaGrid and NTTG funding members are currently looking at potentially reorganizing the structure of ColumbiaGrid and NTTG. There are a number of drivers for doing so, including the potential of PacifiCorp becoming a Participating Transmission Owner with the CAISO and the impact to NTTG's footprint and costs to NTTG's Funders. Additionally, the group is reviewing the overall broader regional planning footprint and if there are benefits and possible reduced costs.
 - The members have had a meeting and identified three work groups:
 - Policy and Governance Workgroup – co-Chairs are Ray Brush with NorthWestern and Scott Waples with Avista.
 - Legal Workgroup – co-Chairs are CeCe Coleman with Portland General and Mike Andrea with Avista.
 - Technical Workgroup – co-Chairs are Chelsea Loomis with NorthWestern and John Martinsen with Snohomish.
 - The co-Chairs are to develop a charter for each workgroup by mid-December that will describe a scope of work and what the workgroups are responsible for.
 - The first go/no-go decision is set for the end of Quarter 1 2016 where the regions will determine if it's necessary to carry the process forward.
 - More detail will be given during the December 17th NTTG Steering Committee and Stakeholder meetings.
 - Fred Heutte indicated that when information and public materials are available it would be helpful so that stakeholders are informed.

3. Assignments:

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

Next Meeting: The next Northern Tier Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled for December, the date is still TBD.

- 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 |
| Don Johnson, Portland General | Craig Quist, PacifiCorp | |

Membership Class 2

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Marshall Empey, UAMPS | Rhett Hurless, Absaroka Energy | |
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Membership Class 3

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|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Johanna Bell, ID PUC | Margo Schurman, MT PSC | Matt Wiggs, ID OER |
| Jerry Maio, UT PSC | David Walker, WY PSC | |

Other NTTG Members & Guests

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jamie Austin, PacifiCorp | Sharon Helms, NTTG | Kim McClafferty, NorthWestern |
| Gil Coulam, NTTG | Fred Heutte, NW Energy Coalition | Trevor Schultz, Idaho Power |
| Jared Ellsworth, Idaho Power | John Leland, NTTG | Amy Wachsnicht, NTTG |