

Description of Meeting:	NTTG Quarter 8 Stakeholder Meeting
Meeting Date:	December 5, 2019
Meeting Notes Prepared By:	Amy Wachsnicht
Approved for Posting:	December 31, 2019

Agenda:

- Welcome and Agenda Review
- NTTG 2018-2019 Regional Transmission Plan Development Update
- NTTG 2020-2021 Project Sponsor Pre-Qualification Results and Next Steps
- Transmission Use Committee Update
- Regional Updates
- NorthernGrid Update
- Next Steps, Stakeholder Comments and Other Business

Welcome and Agenda Review

- NTTG is in the final Quarter 8 of its biennial planning cycle, with this being the last stakeholder meeting of NTTG. Sharon Helms walked through the agenda and introduced the presenters.

NTTG 2018-2019 Regional Transmission Plan Development Update (Presented by Chelsea Loomis)

- The Revised Draft Final Regional Transmission Plan (DFRTP) was posted for stakeholder comment on September 24th. 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 centered around the results of the Economic Study Request.
- Chelsea Loomis walked through the [Joint Parties comments and NTTG’s responses](#).
- No modifications were made to the Revised DFRTP as a result of the stakeholder comments and on October 23rd the NTTG Planning Committee approved the responses and recommended sending the report to the Steering Committee for final approval.

NTTG 2020-2021 Project Sponsor Pre-Qualification Results and Next Steps (Presented by Jared Ellsworth & Courtney Waites)

- Any Project Sponsor wishing to submit a project into NTTG for cost allocation consideration, must be pre-qualified by the Planning and Cost Allocation Committees.
- NTTG received two pre-qualification submissions for consideration, [Great Basin Transmission](#) and [TransCanyon](#).
- Jared Ellsworth and Courtney Waites walked through the evaluation summaries for both Project Sponsors.
- In conclusion, both Great Basin Transmission and TransCanyon demonstrated they have the technical and financial expertise required to develop, construct, finance and maintain their transmission projects.

Transmission Use Committee Update (Presented by Nathan Powell)

- On an annual basis, the Transmission Use Committee updates the NTTG POR/POD Map and Common Names List. The final approved map and names list is posted to the NTTG website.
 - [Changes to the Map as of October 29th](#) included several points removed from NorthWestern Energy as well as a few additions. submitted several changes to the POR/POD.



- These documents are currently available on the NTTG website. At this time, there has not been any discussion with regards to a transition plan of the NTTG website to NorthernGrid and its possible the documents may not be available following the end of the year.

Regional Updates

- CAISO – Gary DeShazo
 - The CAISO recently held it's third stakeholder meeting to review the economic and policy results and are now in the process of preparing the Transmission Plan Report with a draft available in early January and a final stakeholder meeting in February before presenting the report to the Board in March.
 - In January, the CAISO will begin developing the study plan for the 2020-2021 planning cycle with a stakeholder meeting in February.
- ColumbiaGrid – Larry Furumasu
 - Since the last update, ColumbiaGrid has completed the 2019 System Assessment and no new regional needs were identified. The report is posted on ColumbiaGrid's website.
 - With the transition to the new NorthernGrid RPO, the ColumbiaGrid corporation will be dissolving at the end of 2020. This means that the planning activities next year will be accelerating and completed three to four months early.
 - The jurisdictional parties have submitted their notice to ColumbiaGrid and therefore ColumbiaGrid will no longer be doing Order 1000 planning nor interregional coordination after 2020.
- WestConnect – Charlie Reinhold
 - During it's October meeting, the Planning Management Committee (PMC) approved the Draft Final Planning Report followed by a stakeholder comment window. No comments were received and it is expected the PMC will approve the plan during their next meeting.
 - WestConnect has begun the process of developing the study plan and data collection for the next cycle. A request for scenario submissions to be considered in the next cycle was sent, with the window closing January 3rd.
 - On February 27, 2020, WestConnect is hosting the Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting which will be held at SRP in Phoenix, AZ.
 - Charlie Reinhold announced he will be stepping down as WestConnect's Project Manager and Heidi Pacini will be taking over.

NorthernGrid Update (Presented by Shaun Foster)

- NorthernGrid is an attempt to combine the footprint of most of the NTTG and ColumbiaGrid members with a total of 13 members. Like NTTG, NorthernGrid is an unincorporated association of its members with the purpose of coordinating regional transmission planning.
- The benefits of combining into a single organization is a single stakeholder forum, single set of data assumptions as well as a reduction in duplicative efforts.
- Objective include compliance of Orders 890 and 1000 and participation includes both Jurisdictional and Non-Jurisdictional transmission providers. While the Non-Jurisdictional transmission providers participation adds value in the broader coordination of the transmission planning process, they are not subject to mandatory cost allocation.
- Members of NorthernGrid filed their Funding Agreement with FERC requesting an effective date of October 31, 2019 which was approved and enabled the Vendor Selection Process.
 - A vendor was selected through an RFP process and negotiations are still underway. Once all parties have signed the agreement, NorthernGrid will make the announcement on who the new vendor is.
- On September 6, 2019 members filed their Attachment K's with a requested effective date of January 1, 2020. At this time, the members have not received an Order from FERC.

- On November 25th FERC held a public conference call with the NorthernGrid members to ask questions and seek clarifications around the context of the filing.
- NorthernGrid will be made up of [several committees](#) and are in the process of completing the formation for each, including membership, chair and vice-chair elections.
 - Member Committee
 - Planning Committee
 - Cost Allocation Task Force
 - Enrolled Parties and States Committee.
- NorthernGrid's intent will follow an eight-quarter biennial process, however activities for each quarter are not specified in the Attachment K's, allowing the members flexibility should something arise.
- **Question:** Gary DeShazo (CAISO) – At the beginning, you talked about coordinating regional transmission planning. I don't understand how the Non-Jurisdictional are contributing to a regional plan.
 - **Answer:** Shaun Foster (Portland General) – All of the members are going to be required to submit their load and resource data, which will be incorporated into the regional plan. You are correct in that, with respect to cost allocation, they aren't obligated or subject to it unless they volunteer for it and therefore will not be involved in that portion of the process. However, to the extent that, you are using a data set to evaluate and identify projects and needs for the regions, it's important to have the Non-Jurisdictional data and their involvement as part of the process to have a more thorough view of the region.
- **Question:** Gary DeShazo (CAISO) – The ISO is not much different; in that we have worked with LADWP and others on a project and the historical way of doing things is to negotiate something to meet both our needs. The data part makes sense, but on the planning side, Order 1000 requires you to provide a regional plan. If you run all your studies and find a problem in a Non-Jurisdictional system, are you going to report those in your regional plan?
 - **Answer:** Shaun Foster (Portland General) – Yes. If there are needs identified, they will be stated as part of the plan, but if they are in a Non-Jurisdictional territory, there will not be a project developed with mandatory cost allocation to resolve that issue. From a documentation perspective, there is a subregion within the larger region, with respect to needs identified, if they are identified outside of the enrolled parties' regions, it won't necessarily have to be addressed through cost allocation.
- **Question:** Gary DeShazo (CAISO) – Setting aside the cost allocation, if when you run your studies and you run your contingencies in your Non-Jurisdictional footprint, as you would in your Jurisdictional, and you find a reliability issue, is a solution to that problem to be reported in your regional plan, or will it be reported only in the NJ regional plan?
 - **Answer:** Shaun Foster (Portland General) – There is something in the process called a conceptual solution, that will be identified and put in. If there are unsolved needs identified, the planners will come up with a conceptual solution. This applies to both J and NJ. This will not be an actual project in the plan and wouldn't go through cost allocation. It would just be identified as a potential solution.
 - **Comment:** Jared Ellsworth (Idaho Power) – Currently with NTTG, if we identify an Alternative Project, then we do go through the cost allocation process for the project as part of our Attachment K, but this wouldn't go through that process. It would be identified as a conceptual solution. The first thing we will try to do is use projects submitted to meet those needs. If we can't find any solutions using those projects, then we would go to the next step of identifying a conceptual solution.
- **Question:** Gary DeShazo (CAISO) – With regards to the data and it sounds like the benefit to NorthernGrid is to pull your key data under a single umbrella. How can the ISO get in on the data sharing? For years, I have been looking for ways to coordinate with the other planning regions for the data used to develop the production cost simulations. If I can find



away to interact and exchange information to make sure we have each other's current information. Is that something NG would be willing to discuss?

- **Answer:** *Shaun Foster (Portland General)* – That is worth having the conversation.

Next Steps, Stakeholder Comments and Other Business

- On December 19th, NTTG will hold its final Steering Committee Meeting where members will be looking for approval of the Final Regional Transmission Plan. Once approved, the plan will be distributed to the neighboring planning regions and regulatory members.

Hearing no other comments, the meeting was adjourned.



Attendees:

First	Last	Company	Webinar
Rhett	Hurless	Absaroka Energy	x
Dean	Spratt	Avista Corp	x
Gary	DeShazo	California ISO	x
Larry	Furumasu	ColumbiaGrid	x
Nathan	Powell	Deseret	x
Marissa	Warren	ID Gov. OEMR	x
Jared	Ellsworth	Idaho Power	x
Courtney	Waites	Idaho Power	x
Curtis	Westhoff	Idaho Power	x
Alan	Hockenson	KBT Energy	x
Krista	Kisch	Lone Star Renewables, LLC	x
Younglae	Kim	MATL	x
Larry	Nordell	MT Consumer Council	x
Robin	Arnold	MT Public Service Commission	x
Bill	Hosie	New American Transmission Co.	x
Rich	Bayless	Northern Tier Transmission Group	x
Sharon	Helms	Northern Tier Transmission Group	x
John	Leland	Northern Tier Transmission Group	x
Ron	Schellberg	Northern Tier Transmission Group	x
Amy	Wachsnicht	Northern Tier Transmission Group	x
Chelsea	Loomis	NorthWestern Energy	x
Frank	O'Connor	NorthWestern Energy	x
Brian	Dekiep	NWPCC	x
Jamie	Austin	PacifiCorp	x
Kishore	Patel	PacifiCorp	x
Craig	Quist	PacifiCorp	x
Shaun	Foster	Portland General	x
Bob	Smith	TransCanyon	x
Marshall	Empey	UAMPS	x
Bela	Vastag	UT OFC Consumer Services	x
Heidi	Pacini	WestConnect	x
Charlie	Reinhold	WestConnect	x
Bryce	Freeman	WY OFC Consumer Advocates	x
James	Branscomb	WY Public Service Commission	x
Daney	Brauchie	WY Public Service Commission	x
Kara	Fornstrom	WY Public Service Commission	x