

Description of Meeting:	NTTG Planning Committee
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Meeting Notes Prepared By:	Amy Wachsnicht
Approved for Posting:	February 10, 2016

1. Agenda:

- a. Welcome, establish quorum and agenda review
- b. Approval of November 18, 2015 Planning Committee Meeting Notes
- c. Elections of the 2016 Planning Chair and Vice-Chair
- d. Approval of NTTG Comments on ColumbiaGrid's Plan
- e. Regional Letter to WECC re: 2026 Common Case and Round Trip Capability
- f. Round Table/Other Business

2. Discussions & Decisions:

Decision: Approval of November 18, 2015 Planning Committee Meeting Notes

- Dave Angell reviewed the meeting notes and agenda items from the November 18th Planning Committee meeting.
- With a motion by Chelsea Loomis and second by Don Johnson, the November 18, 2015 Planning Committee meeting notes were **unanimously approved** by all three classes.

Decision: Elections of the 2016 Planning Chair and Vice-Chair

- Dave Angell nominated Craig Quist as the Planning Committee Chair
 - Craig Quist accepted the nomination.
 - No other nominations were suggested.
- Craig Quist nominated Chelsea Loomis as the Planning Committee Vice-Chair.
 - Chelsea Loomis accepted the nomination.
 - No other nominations were suggested.
- With a motion by John Chatburn and second by Don Johnson, the nominations of Craig Quist as the Planning Committee Chair and Chelsea Loomis as the Planning Committee Vice-Chair were **unanimously approved** by all three classes.

Discussion: NTTG Comments on ColumbiaGrid's Plan

- ColumbiaGrid's plan was posted for comments. Comments were due on December 15, 2015.
- John Leland was asked to draft comments for NTTG Planning Committee approval and that once approved, would include the signatures of Dave Angell, committee Chair and Craig Quist, committee Vice-Chair. John Leland indicated he reviewed the plan looking for how NTTG and its transmission providers interfaced or was affected as a result of the plan.
- The first paragraph of NTTG's comments were in support of ColumbiaGrid's plan.
- The second paragraph commented on the discussion of impacts that particular outages of a substation in Seattle which caused tripping on Colstrip in eastern Montana that was recognized through ColumbiaGrid's studies. ColumbiaGrid worked with NorthWestern Energy to confirm if it was a valid trip.
 - John Leland indicated this was a good discussion and an opportunity to recognize the coordination between the regions and utilities as it is a requirement of Order 1000 and Order 890 to monitor and inform neighboring regions of potential impacts to their systems.
- ColumbiaGrid's plan included information on their sensitivity studies, dynamic studies as well as the CIP-014 assessment study. ColumbiaGrid had included Boardman to Hemmingway in their base case. They also ran a coal retirement study similar to what NTTG did.



- John Leland asked the Planning Committee if there was anything additional that should be added to NTTG's comments with regards to ColumbiaGrid's plan.
 - There was none.

Decision: Approval of NTTG Comments on ColumbiaGrid's Plan

- With a motion by Chelsea Loomis and second by Craig Quist, NTTG's Comments on ColumbiaGrid's plan was **unanimously approved** by all three classes.
- Once the NTTG Planning Committee Chair and Vice-Chair's signatures are added, John Leland will send the comments to ColumbiaGrid.

Discussion: Regional Letter to WECC re: 2026 Common Case and Round Trip Capability

- John Leland gave the background and purpose of the regional letter to WECC regarding the 2026 Common Case and Round Trip capability.
- In the summer, NTTG started working with the Planning Committee and Technical Workgroup to think about the next cycle and it was recognized NTTG spent a lot of time making the Round Trip Process from power flow to production cost model (PCM) back to power flow and there was a need for that process to work in a more efficient matter.
- The four regions sent a letter to WECC in August 2015 requesting the 2026 Common Case to be produced by the end of Quarter 1 in 2016.
 - In the last cycle, this was not completed until August of September. By having the common case completed earlier, the regions can spend more time doing the analysis of the studies and less time trying to get the results.
 - As of now WECC's calendar shows that the 2026 Common Case will be completed by the end of Quarter 1 in 2016.
- The letter from the four regions also included a request to have WECC help put together and finalize the Round Trip Process so that it becomes part of the WECC process. John Leland indicated that WECC is integral in developing the cases in specific areas:
 - Separate vendors and base cases for power flow and PCM. The formatting of the elements of the system and how they are housed in the base cases are different such as the generation and transmission systems.
 - NTTG spend the last few cycles trying to make the two base cases match so that one can run a PCM and an equivalent power flow model for selected hours.
 - The regions request is to get WECC in to the process so when they develop the base cases for power flow and PCM their attention is on the commonality needed.
- There was the BCCS model that would have a common frame work for the power flow and PCM base cases, however that is no longer an option and it is unclear where WECC is at on continuing with another software.
 - In the short term with NTTG's experience, the Round Trip is a process that can be used to transfer data between the power flow and PCM data bases and makes them consistent.
 - In the August letter to WECC, the regions proposed that WECC uses the NTTG process until they can get other data bases together.
- The Round Trip Process has been a tremendous effort. Jamie Austin and Ron Schellberg had spent a lot of time working with developing the translation and work to educate WECC. It appears WECC is becoming comfortable with meeting the 2016 timeframe for completing the Round Trip Process.
- WECC and TEPPC had a lot of internal discussions regarding the Round Trip Process. The Regional Planning Coordination Group had a meeting on November 13th with the primary purpose to work on the 2016 Common Case Transmission Assumptions with an added discussion on the Round Trip Process. Byron Woertz participated in the meeting and inquired what level of interest the other planning regions have in using the Round Trip Process. This prompted NTTG to work with the other planning regions on drafting a letter,

- with NTTG taking the lead. The goal is to have a final version completed by the end of the year.
- John Leland walked through the draft letter with the Planning Committee which included comments from members of NTTG as well as the other planning regions.
 - The introduction of the letter describes the Round Trip Process as it was one of the questions NTTG wanted to provide as an opportunity to educate WECC and the other planning regions.
 - John Leland explained the Round Trip Process is the process that moves data between power flow and PCM. By coming up with this process one ends up with generator data identified on the same busses, load and resources and all the other things that go into developing the base cases.
 - John Leland walked through the graphic that showed the Round Trip Process. He indicated that NTTG has developed the capability to make the Round Trip Process work. This effort was completed a week ago to have a solved power flow from the 2025 case and the PCM. These solved cases have been sent to WECC.
 - WECC's effort in completing the Round Trip Process includes updating to the 2026 CCTA, the incremental generation and dynamic models.
 - It was proposed that if WECC uses the Round Trip Process this would result in common data. Once the case is completed there will be compatible power flow and PCM data bases. Development of future base cases would start from these power flow and PCM base cases that are already solved and make changes to these base cases and used Round Trip Process to yield solved cases.
 - John Leland indicated the text highlighted yellow in the draft letter represent comments and edits received from the other planning regions.
 - During the November 13th RPCG meeting, WECC asked two questions. NTTG requested the other planning regions provide their responses in the draft letter.
 - What functionality are you expecting?
 - ColumbiaGrid indicated they agreed with the functionality NTTG described.
 - With regards to CAISO's response, John Leland pointed out one of their statements which read *"However, the California ISO does not believe that a stable environment exists for the reconciliation of existing and new generator/transmission data with different models in different power flow cases."*
 - John Leland indicated that Jamie Austin worked with WECC to develop swim lane diagram that shows the Round Trip Process and who is responsible (i.e., Regions or WECC) to complete. The swim lane diagram will be attached to the letter when submitted to WECC.
 - John Leland also indicated that he and Jamie Austin are scheduled to have a meeting with the CAISO to help them understand and become comfortable with the process with the possibility of revising the text in the above statement as it may not be accurate.
 - WestConnect indicated they are not going to use the Round Trip Process in the same manner as the other planning regions, but they will be using the data bases.
 - How will the Planning Regions use this data?
 - Each planning region provided their response.
 - During the December 17th NTTG Stakeholder meeting, John Leland will go in to detail on the process so that people become more familiar with it.
 - Don Johnson indicated that the Round Trip Process allows people to be able to take one hour out of the PCM and verify that it provides reliability that one cannot do in a power flow. This appears to be something the CAISO is missing and suggested this should be stressed in the letter.
 - John Leland indicated that one of the things that NTTG can explore this next planning cycle is to examine alternative methods using PCM to define some of the metrics used in selecting



the regional plan such as reserve sharing and losses. In the past cycle, NTTG used the information from the power flow model.

Discussion: Round Table/Other Business

- Dave Angell indicated the next planning cycle will have many changes, new opportunities to incorporate the lessons learned from last cycle and hopefully implement improvements smoothly in the next cycle.
- Sharon Helms thanked Dave Angell on behalf of the NTTG Planning Committee and all of NTTG for his leadership. She acknowledge that he was instrumental in ensuring the planning process and the development of the Order 1000 regional and interregional processes were transparent and acceptable to FERC.
 - John Leland also thanked Dave Angell for his leadership and efforts.
 - Dave Angell indicated it has been a pleasure being involved with NTTG and the other regions in creating a process that would meet stakeholder needs and that FERC is pleased with NTTG's process.
 - Sharon Helms indicated that at the last NTTG stakeholder meeting in Bozeman, MT Natalie Propst told her that FERC was impressed with NTTG's process and stakeholder process.
- Sharon Helms informed the committee that Gil Coulam would be transitioning out of the Technical Workgroup. She thanked him for managing the workgroup for the past four years and that he was instrumental in making sure the technical analysis has been complete on time and followed the Attachment K.
 - Craig Quist, Dave Angell, Don Johnson and John Leland all thanked Gil Coulam.
 - Gil Coulam thanked everyone and that it had been a pleasure working with the utilities.
- Ron Schellberg will be fulfilling Gil Coulam's role on the Technical Workgroup. Sharon Helms indicated he has been instrumental in NTTG's process and the Round Trip Process.
- WECC/TEPPC is putting together a cross functional taskforce that is responsible for the development for a revised TEPPC protocol and revised charters of the committees. NTTG submitted comments initially that due to the diversity of the different regions, there was a desire to have a representative from each planning region on the taskforce. This was not accepted and the regions were advised to find someone who would be an appropriate representative for the planning regions.
 - Sharon Helms had worked with the facilitators and the other regions on finding a representative. Last week she received support for having John Leland accept the role as the planning regions representative.
 - John Leland will be setting up weekly meetings so that the four regions can give their input which he will represent on the taskforce.
- Sharon Helms reminded the committee of the upcoming NTTG Quarter 8 Stakeholder meeting being held in Salt Lake City, UT at the Radisson Downtown. The meeting will begin at 1:00pm (Mountain), with lunch being served prior at noon.
 - Dave Angell will give an overview of NTTG's 2014-2015 Regional Transmission Plan.
 - Craig Quist, as the incoming Chair will spend time on the Quarter 1 milestones and Stakeholder involvement.
 - In Quarter 1 NTTG is looking for:
 - Public Policy Considerations data and the Transmission Providers to submit their load and resource data by January 31st.
 - Economic Study Requests submitted by March 30th.
 - Project Submissions by March 31st.
 - Sharon Helms will give an update on the interregional coordination and milestones.



- John Leland and Jamie Austin will discuss the Round Trip Process, making sure parties understand the process and how it works.
 - Sharon Helms encouraged the committee to attend the Stakeholder meeting either in person or via WebEx.
- Amy Wachsnicht informed the committee she will be distributing the meeting series invites for the 2016 NTTG Planning Committee meetings. These will continue to be on the second Wednesday of every month starting at 1:00pm (Pacific)/2:00pm (Mountain).
- Dave Angell informed the committee that Jared Ellsworth will join the committee as the member representative for Idaho Power. Dave Angell will continue to represent Idaho Power on the NTTG Management Committee.

3. Assignments:

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

Next Meeting: The next Northern Tier Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 13th 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	Don Johnson, Portland General	Craig Quist, PacifiCorp
Bill Hosie, TransCanada	Chelsea Loomis, NorthWestern	Scott Waples, Avista Corp

Membership Class 2

Marshall Empey, UAMPS	Rhett Hurless, Absaroka Energy	
-----------------------	--------------------------------	--

Membership Class 3

John Chatburn, ID OER	Jerry Maio, UT PSC	David Walker, WY PSC
Bob Decker, MT PSC		

Other NTTG Members & Guests

Gil Coulam, NTTG	John Leland, NTTG	Amy Wachsnicht, NTTG
Jared Ellsworth, Idaho Power	Kishore Patel, PacifiCorp	Matt Wiggs, ID OER
Sharon Helms, NTTG		