

What's coming up

The next joint meeting of the Transmission Use, ADI, Planning and Cost Allocation committees is scheduled for the week of January 14. The announcement for the two-day meeting will be posted after preparation of the agenda, which is expected to include:

- Update on available transmission capacity values and presentations on more transparency into available transmission capacity and the NTTG economic study process.
- Update on the fast track study plans. Solicitation of member participation on the Planning Committee and an overview of the planning process.
- Review of Cost Allocation Committee charter, committee makeup and process.
- Review of an ADI work plan and stakeholder discussion.

Missing a reply from NTTG?

Inquiries to info@NTTG.biz have been sent into cyberspace for several weeks, rather than to the intended destination. If you have sent an email and are still awaiting a reply, please resend, and you will hear back directly.

Use Committee Works on Scheduling Paths

The Transmission Use Committee has been working since its July meeting on a more in-depth look into scheduling paths initially identified as having zero long-term firm transfer capacity available. This includes giving customers more transparency in the queue levels for service requests; historical use of scheduling paths; and results of past system impact and facilities

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NTTG RESPONDS TO FERC ORDER 890

By Rich Bayless

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order 890 directed transmission providers to develop planning processes that treat all customers – native load, network, and point-to-point – comparably. FERC asked transmission providers to prepare Attachment Ks to their Open Access Transmission Tariffs to document requirements, including a planning process that encompasses transparency, openness, and measures allowing for easy participation by all interested customers. Order 890 also requires transmission providers to engage in regional planning with neighboring interconnected systems.

In the inclusive process, NTTG, its stakeholders, customers and members drafted the Sub-Regional Planning Process. When presented at last June's FERC Technical Conference in Park City, Utah, FERC staff inquired about transmission providers' specific responsibilities and asked for a second conference focused on individual Attachment Ks and compliance responsibilities.

The NTTG team, including Jim Tucker, Desert Power; Kip Sikes, Idaho Power Company; John Leland, Northwestern Energy; and Darrell Gerrard, PacifiCorp, presented their respective companies' revised and expanded Attachment Ks at the October FERC Technical Conference in Denver. NTTG members also discussed the interactions between sub-regional and regional planning and the need to actively engage states on cost allocation.

Coordinating Plans with Stakeholders

At the October conference, FERC staff, various state agency representatives and customers gained a clearer picture of Attachment K details and responsibilities concerning

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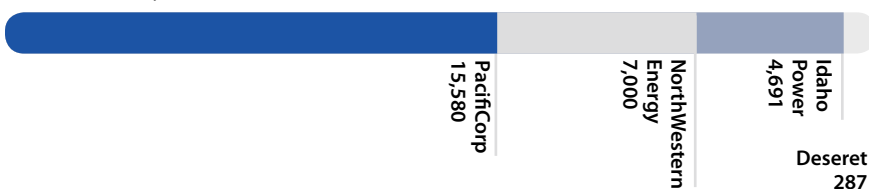
CUSTOMERS SERVED BY THE TRANSMISSION OWNERS PARTICIPATING IN NTTG

Total customers = 2,673,500



MILES OF HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES OWNED BY PARTICIPATING UTILITIES IN NTTG

Total miles = 27,558



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studies associated with these paths. Simultaneously, the Transmission Use Committee is working on a process to allow stakeholders to prioritize economic congestion studies in response to FERC Order 890. Both initiatives will be presented to stakeholders in January when the committee will seek stakeholder input on future steps to respond to customer needs.

ADI Expansion Evaluated

ACE Diversity Interchange (ADI) participants and NTTG have finalized a committee charter. This committee will now evaluate future products, services and features, which will yield a proposal for development of the next phase of ADI. ADI is open to all balancing authorities interconnecting with NTTG. Email info@nttg.biz for information on participation.

About ADI

NTTG members Idaho Power, North-Western Energy, and PacifiCorp have developed communication protocols and software to allow transmission providers to share Area Control Error (ACE) signals and take advantage of the diversity in these signals to help reduce the regulation capacity requirements. This system is called ACE Diversity Interchange or ADI.

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planning. Participants reiterated the need for easy-to-understand processes and requested that the number of meetings, groups, and processes - however inclusive - be kept to an optimum level. The Northwest Power Pool area transmission providers, including members from NTTG, Columbia Grid and Portland General, explained how they coordinate the Northwest sub-region. In the spirit of collaboration, transmission providers shared how they plan to use regional and sub-regional planning processes to meet FERC Order 890 requirements. The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) presented the status of regional planning protocols designed to coordinate planning among the sub-regional planning groups and provide economic congestion study services for members.

NTTG members are finalizing Attachment Ks for FERC filing on December 7. The NTTG Planning, Transmission Use and Cost Allocation committees' charters detail the NTTG planning process. WECC is also finalizing its regional planning process to align with individual and sub-regional group processes.

NTTG MEMBERS' TRANSMISSION FACILITIES



FOLLOWING THE FAST TRACK

As part of implementing the fast track transmission expansion projects announced this year by NTTG members Idaho Power Company, Northwestern Energy, and PacifiCorp, NTTG conducted six public stakeholder meetings, the most recent on November 13 in Boise. Each of the projects was reviewed with comments and questions from stakeholders regarding progress to date in fulfilling the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) regional planning process requirements.

The NTTG Biennial Planning process will kick off in the first quarter of 2008 when the fast track projects will be incorporated into the biennial plan and used as pilots to test and refine the Cost Allocation Committee's methods and process.