



## *FINAL NOTES*

### **NW TRANSMISSION ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (NTAC)**

**September 16, 2003, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM  
Portland, OR – Sheraton Airport Hotel**

#### **Introductions, Arrangements, and Agenda Changes**

Don Johnson (PAC), TPC Chair, presided over the meeting. The attendance list is Attachment 1. The Agenda is Attachment 2. The following changes were made to the agenda: added Item #5.d dealing with the WECC Reliability Subcommittee Loads & Resources.

#### **Meeting Notes – August 28, 2003**

Corrections were made to Ron Schellberg's and Scott Waples' comments as recorded on page one.

#### **Discussion of NTAC Chairmanship**

Don led a discussion on the chairing of NTAC. The position of chair is open to anyone on the committee. The scope document calls for the Transmission Planning Committee (TPC) to select the chair and NTAC to select the vice-chair. Since TPC approves expenses, there was more comfort with the chair being a TPC member. On the other hand, it is desired that NTAC be an open forum. The group concluded that it could recommend and TPC could approve a chair for NTAC.

Chris Reese, PSE, expressed interest in chairing NTAC. Gary DeShazo, CAISO, volunteered to co-chair NTAC, but was not willing to chair the committee. He notes that CAISO wants to help in the NTAC effort Scott Waples noted that Gary's co-chairing the group may add a level of complexity.

Hardev Juj nominated Chris Reese for chair and Ron Schellberg, IPC, for vice-chair. Mark Stauffer, NWE, nominated Lon Peters, Northwest Power Works, for vice-chair. Gary DeShazo volunteered for vice-chair. Since no one else was nominated for chair, the committee agreed that Chris Reese should chair NTAC. The committee voted by secret ballot electing Ron Schellberg to serve as vice-chair. Don will take the recommendation for chair to the next TPC meeting on September 25, 2003. He will report the results to NTAC on September 26.

#### **Interest in CERA Study**

CERA has proposed a study similar to the effort underway by the SSG-WI Planning Work Group (PWG). Some entities in the West (eg BCH) provided data to the study effort while others (eg BPA) have not. The study would be more useful with more participants. The study could be used as a benchmark of the SSG-WI studies. But it also moves away from developing one common database within WECC.

Scott Waples moved that NTAC cease consideration of the CERA study and focus on determining what NTAC needs. John Martinsen seconded the motion. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that while we

would not participate now, we may want to later. NTAC unanimously approved the motion with no abstentions

## **Other Study Groups Work Update**

### **SSG-WI PWG**

Marv Landaur was absent so there was no report.

### **Rocky Mountain Subgroup**

The Rocky Mountain Subgroup contracted with PacifiCorp to do study work. The subgroup has its kick-off meeting scheduled for September 26 in Salt Lake City. From the Northwest, Chris Reese, Ron Schellberg, and Dana Reedy will attend. Ron and Dana will relay notes from the meeting to NTAC. Don noted that the Rocky Mountain Subgroup has a web page and he would like NTAC to have one as well. Several present questioned why another subgroup would exist essentially within the NWPP footprint. Ron speculates that the Rocky Mountain subgroup is more of a policy level group and looking at economic development. Some feel NTAC should coordinate with the Rocky Mountain subgroup. Others feel NTAC should first address its own problems.

### **Presentation to Western Governors Association (WGA)**

Don reviewed the presentation (previously e-mailed to the subcommittee) that Rich Bayless, PAC, was making to a meeting of the WGA, which was also September 16. The subcommittee felt that NTAC was not as far along Rich's presentation suggests. Don Johnson and Marv Landauer had some opportunity to modify Rich's report. From now on, any presentation made by or on behalf of NTAC should have prior approval by the NTAC Chair and Vice-chair. It was suggested that NTAC should have a liaison to the WGA.

### **Southern Transmission Expansion Plan (STEP)**

Gary DeShazo, CAISO, provided a report on the work STEP has been doing. STEP narrowed a list of proposals down to six and is now working to further narrow the list down to two. They are using the ABB model (COUGAR) and meeting the past several weeks to evaluate the remaining alternatives. STEP hopes to have results to feed into the SSG-WI report to FERC in October. By consensus, the group decides which projects get built and approved project details are fairly specific. However, individual systems can modify those plans. STEP posts its activities on the CAISO website.

### **WECC Reliability Subcommittee (RS) Load and Resource**

Prior to introducing the subject, Scott Waples clarified his statement concerning how new generation might be constructed in the future. It may be done through a consortium as done with Colstrip and Bridger.

Scott Waples; Rebecca Berdahl, BPA; Chris Reese; and others informed the group of the changes being requested by the WECC RS, and the potential impact on this group. In addition, the group was informed of the challenge to the Northwest by the WECC RS to develop the appropriate question for determining system capability. The problem is how to report hydro data for an energy constrained system and then meld it with data from a capacity constrained system.

In addition, data confidentiality was discussed. Some entities want data reported at the control areas level to facilitate studies. It comes down to how open is the process.

NTAC will promote the utilization of a common data base.

## **Continued Development of Scope of Work**

### **NTAC Brochure**

As part of the presentation to WGA, Rich Bayless, Don Johnson, and Marv Landauer developed a brochure (e-mailed earlier) on NTAC. Don encouraged the new chair to more fully develop the brochure.

### **Responsibilities and Duties**

Gary DeShazo thinks there is a problem with how the subregions are defined. He notes that there is more overlap of Arizona and Southern California than what Rich's presentation suggested. He would like to see Northern California folded into NTAC rather than to do its own studies. He defines anything north of Path 15 as Northern California. Don Johnson does not think Northern California belongs with NTAC. We will coordinate with all areas, but not study them all.

Mark Stauffer asked that non wires alternatives have more prominence within the Scope document. There were a couple of other modifications to the document.

### **Develop Process**

The committee discussed how to get started. Transmission problems exist today that are not being addressed.

Mark Stauffer raised the issue of Integrated Resource Planning (IRP). Scott Waples made it clear that the Washington Commission does not want NTAC doing IRP.

The subcommittee developed some ideas that became the Process section of the Scope document. Dana will e-mail the revised document for comments, which are due back to him by close of business September 25.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be October 1, 2003 from 9:00-4:00 at the Portland Airport Conference Center.