



FINAL NOTES

NW TRANSMISSION ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (NTAC)

**November 25, 2003, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM
Portland, OR – PDX Conference Center**

Introductions, Arrangements, and Agenda Changes

Chris Reese, PSE, NTAC Chair, presided over the meeting. He opened with a quote, “It ain’t over ‘til it’s over,” – a reference to a recently played football game between two Washington colleges. The attendance list is Attachment 1. There were no changes to the agenda, which is Attachment 2. Some agenda items were not discussed due to lack of time.

Meeting Notes – November 4, 2003

No changes to the notes. The notes may be found on the NTAC page of the NWPP website (www.nwpp.org), which is now up and running.

NTAC–TPC Roles Issue

Wally Gibson, NWPPCC, talked about his paper (previously e-mailed). He sees four dimensions of separation of work between NTAC and TPC: 1) specific projects vs specific problems, 2) reliability analysis vs economic analysis, 3) reliability projects vs economic projects, and 4) closed committee vs open committee. Ron Schellberg suggests a distinction between generation adequacy and transmission adequacy; NTAC would perform work for the former and TPC for the latter. Marv Landaur reminded that NTAC addresses a specific need to assess possible projects, as opposed to simply performing studies that are brought to the TPC for an existing need.

Jerry Rust, NWPP, reminded the group that formerly the TPC was focused on reliability. Utilities brought projects to TPC for reliability review. TPC voted to add a front end planning function. He says the distinction is where you start, high level planning or deeper level reliability, but it is all basically the same group.

Chris draws attention to a previous presentation on work concepts from CATS; it is a volunteer organization supported by its members – no staff, everyone is allowed to participate, it relies as much as possible on technical studies done in other forums, and entities wanting specific work done must provide requisite resources. He also notes that we can and will borrow from what others (eg CATS) are doing, giving credit where credit is due.

Regional Queue

Chris describes the problem as multiple transmission providers having separate queues. If an entity is trying to cross the systems of multiple providers, it is difficult to get an assessment of how feasible it is to reach load. A single regional queue or Clearing House could solve that problem. Ron Schellberg questions whether NTAC should take on this role, noting that entities seeking transmission service are usually looking to get that service within 3 years. Lon Peters asked what it would take to have a single regional queue. Scott

Waples sees NTAC as a place where a developer could come to learn all the requisite steps in the process of implementing new projects.

Chris asked for a small group to write a paper to further develop this idea. Scott Waples, Rebecca Burdahl, (Marv Landauer), Wally Gibson, Lon Peters, and Bill Pascoe agreed to be on the small group. The paper is to be a thought piece and should identify questions associated with the problem.

NTAC Products and Schedule

Lon Peters highlighted changes to the Work Products document (previously e-mailed, latest version available from the NTAC web site.) The group further modified the document. Discussion issues included the scope of NTAC and realistic expectations for the first year.

The issue of power supply reliability was raised. NTAC is not setting the standard but would assess against an existing standard. (It's not clear that a standard exists.) It is useful to see if the system is getting better or worse.

The group tried to clarify the time frame for the items on the list of products. Items 1 and 2 are where we are now. Items 3 and 4 are where we think we are going. Items 5 and 6 are where we could be. Dean Perry urged NTAC to coordinate with other sub-regional groups and with SSG-WI.

Lon next lead the discussion on the Work Schedule (previously e-mailed, latest version available from the NTAC web site.) He delineated between those tasks that could be accomplished in 2004 and those that would be accomplished in 2005. He notes that it is an aggressive schedule and NTAC may not be able to accomplish all of the items. Marv Landauer identified six potential tasks: SSG-WI follow-up (review; improvements to data, etc; transmission alternatives), regional queue (white paper), near-term studies, mid-term studies, scenarios, and path upgrades.

NTAC needs to know where SSG-WI is headed. Dean Perry said that a small group, headed by Ray Brush, is looking at that issue. The next SSG-WI study will probably look at more of a blended scenario rather than the bookend approach taken by the recent study. SSG-WI may do a scenario study every other year. SSG-WI will also be deciding whether to develop studies for 2009 and 2014 or update the 2008 and 2013 studies. SSG-WI will meet December 8, 2003.

There were also questions of how the work and acquisition of tools would fit within the various budget cycles of entities involved. The NWPP budget is approved by its Board of Directors in March and by the committees in June. All items are paid for when acquired (ie no amortization of capital expenses.)

Kurt Granat, PacifiCorp, notes that there are some problems with the existing model and data. His time is limited until work for RMATS wraps up. Chris asked Kurt to develop a paper on the production cost model as it might be applied to NTAC and on the improvements needed. Ron Schellberg agreed to help Kurt with the paper. The goal is have a paper by April 2004.

Other Topics

Chris talked about a chart of Potential High Level Technical Study Efforts (Attachment 3). The idea is to look from a high level at some known constrained paths and examine what would happen if another line were added. Marv Landauer and Scott Waples will modify the list.

Bill Pascoe, Kurt Granat, Chris Reese, Ron Schellberg, and possibly someone from NWPP staff will develop a data specification (how data will be collected, possible sources, etc.)

Next Meeting

There will be a working meeting of interested parties December 9, 2003 from 8:30 to 3:00 at the RTO West offices, 5933 Win Sivers Drive, Portland, OR. Topics will include timelines/schedules, drafts on technical issues, study issues, and data specifications.

The next regular NTAC meeting will be January 6, 2004 from 8:30 to 3:30 in the vicinity of the Portland Airport.