



PRELIMINARY NOTES

NW TRANSMISSION ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (NTAC)

March 16, 2004, 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. The attendance list is Attachment 1. There were no changes to the agenda, which is Attachment 2.

Meeting Notes – February 11, 2004

No changes to the notes. The notes may be found on the NTAC page of the NWPP website (www.nwpp.org).

TPC/NTAC Screening Studies

Current Status

Melvin Rodrigues, BPA, reviewed the work done to date to prepare these studies. The case will benchmark the system as of 2005. Melvin said they hope to have the final case out March 17 and have comments back within a week after that. There would be a conference call to discuss the case a week later.

Long Term Plan

Chris Reese hopes NTAC can prepare a plan annually. He asked for volunteers to craft a proposal.

Marv Landauer presented a recent “very draft” Screening Studies document (Attachment 3). He hopes it will be a guide for annual studies for 2005 and beyond. The studies would be conducted under the aegis of the TPC. He suggested that multiple utilities should coordinate the work rather than burden a single utility.

It was recognized that the database used for these studies should be consistent with that used for SSG-WI studies but may need to be more detailed. There should be an awareness of what each of the other sub-regional groups is doing. There was also some discussion of reviving the WECC Loads and Resources (L&R) Subcommittee.

Some of the data sets needed for the Screening Studies includes: load forecasts, system topology, system data, system additions, and single line diagrams. Single line diagrams will be discussed at the next TPC meeting. It is suggested to have NWPP collect these diagrams and make them available on a protected web page.

State agencies working with CREPC “scrubbed” the data of power plants for the SSG-WI efforts. They have access to such data from siting and air quality documents.

It was suggested that the NWPP collect data for these studies. TPC is already considering having the NWPP resume its data collection role for WECC submittals. The advantage of having NWPP staff collect and coordinate load forecast data is that a more consistent product is obtained; the sum of the parts fails to recognize load diversity. Resuming this effort would require additional staff at the NWPP office. NWPP is in the process of preparing its budget for the coming year (July-June) so this issue is timely.

NTAC must provide a clear document to the TPC, which will have final approval of any work done. Don Johnson, PAC, prepared a letter (Attachment 4) to send to the TPC participants requesting their approval of BPA's work by March 25. [Note: NWPP failed to distribute this letter.]

High Level Path System Studies

Marv Landauer, BPA, presented a revised table and diagram of the paths to be studied and of those provided resources to complete the studies. It is hoped that the final decisions may be made on performing these studies. The criteria for deciding which paths to study may be whether the study can be completed easily or whether the study would provide useful information. Since the studies are high level ("50,000 feet") there is no serious commitment to any path yet. These studies would provide rough estimates of what could be or might need to be done to achieve each of three levels of desirable upgrade (eg 250 MW to 500 MW, 400 MW to 1000 MW, and 750 MW to 1500 MW.) Based on these rough numbers, the group can decide which paths are worth further study. A meeting is scheduled for April 20 to coordinate this work.

Sponsored Path Studies

Montana-Northwest Path(s) Study

Scott Waples, AVA, had previously distributed a draft study report for resource integration from Montana. Sometime after April 4, Scott plans to call together those interested in providing study resources so that work may begin.

Puget Sound Area Path(s) Study

John Phillips, PSE, reported that a group of participants from SNPD, SCL, PSE, BCTC, and PWX participated met recently in Seattle to define the work to be done. The main interest is in increasing south to north transfers, but the group will look at transfers in both directions. When all lines are in service the transfer capability of the path is about 2800 MW. The loss of any one line can result in a deration to 1000 MW until BPA can develop new nomograms. The goal is to firm up the transfer capacity of this path. A small group met more recently to examine the worst case outages. The next meeting is planned for March 24 in Bellevue.

NWPP will post notice of each area study meeting on its web site (www.nwpp.org).

Local Area Plans

In answer to the question of what is meant by a local area plan, Chris Reese distributed some examples prepared by BPA (see Attachment 5). It would be useful to assemble all of the plans in some consistent yet simple format. A brief explanation is better than a one page narrative.

Regional Queue

The document prepared by Scott Waples and distributed January 13 provided one bookend. Now Scott has developed the other bookend (Attachment 6). The proposal would present a process to prospective developers that would direct them to appropriate contacts while also coordinating studies among affected utilities. Scott thinks we should set up "one stop shopping" and then ask FERC if there is a better way to accomplish the desired result. The current process requires developers to put money up front to get into the queue, to have studies done, etc.

NWPP/NTAC Load Forecasting

This topic came out of the non-wires round table, which recognized a variety of needs for load forecasts and a variety of forecast methods. Shepherd Buchanan, BPA, proposes a workshop on regional load forecasting. He sees value in understanding how various forecasts are prepared and used. He hopes the result will be better and more consistent forecasts. His presentation is Attachment 7. Shep will prepare a questionnaire of methods and uses. The NWPP staff will circulate the questionnaire and compile the results. Suggested topics, presenters, etc. are welcome; contact Shep, 360-418-2622, or Dana, 503-464-2806.

Next Meeting

There will be a meeting April 20 to coordinate the work for the High Level Path System Studies. The next regular NTAC meeting will be May 18, 2004.