

Summary

SPSC Scenario Work Group

Conference Call September 29, 2010

Participants:

Jim Tarpey, Chair, and Sharon Podein (CO PUC), John Savage and Kelcey Brown (OR PUC), Marsha Smith (ID PUC), Jeff Goltz (WA UTC), Tom Karier (NW PCC), Morey Wolfson (CO GEO), Kristin Mayes (ACC), Michael Wheeler (CA PUC), Grace Anderson (CEC), Jack Buchanon (BC), Rich Halvey (WGA), and Tom Carr and Steve Ellenbecker (WIEB).

Action Items:

- SPSC members will be polled to get their views on what should be included in a 10-year plan, what criteria we should use, and any other issues they want to offer. The poll will inquire about the methodological approach (normative v. rational or objective), and Grace Anderson's proposed selection criteria for transmission projects. The poll will be distributed after the first meeting of the 10 Year Plan Task Force scheduled for October 1.
- The Scenario Work Group will hold additional meetings to discuss concepts, approaches, criteria, and other considerations.
- WIEB staff will monitor and provide summaries of the Scenario Work Group meetings and the 10 Year Plan Task Force meetings.
- SPSC should plan to be engaged in future deliberations and decisions of the Foundational List of transmission projects submitted to TEPPC.

Summary

Tom Carr provided background on the purpose of the call. At the recent Transmission Expansion Planning Policy Committee (TEPPC) meeting on September 17-18, TEPPC agreed to form a new task force (the "10 Year Plan Task Force") that will be responsible for drafting a white paper on how to move from transmission studies to a 10-year transmission plan. The 10 Year Plan Task Force has the task of producing a white paper by November 1 that will be discussed at the upcoming TEPPC and Scenario Planning Steering Group (SPSG) meetings in Phoenix on November 8-10. TEPPC must deliver a 10 year transmission plan to DOE in the fall 2011. John Savage and Grace Anderson are members of the 10 Year Plan Task Force.

At the last SPSC meeting on September 14-15, the Scenario Work Group was tasked with the responsibility to scope out the issue of moving to transmission plans and make recommendations to the SPSC.

John Savage, SPSC Chair, elaborated on the four points he recommended for the Scenario Work Group to move forward. Specifically:

1. The Scenario Work Group will poll SPSC members to get their initial views on what should be included in a 10-year plan, what criteria we should use, and any other issues they want to offer.
2. The Scenario WG will meet several times to discuss concepts, approaches, criteria, considerations, etc. Any SPSC member will have the opportunity to take part in these discussions. The SPSC should not be rushed as the result of the 10 Year Plan Task Force's white paper work.
3. If the SPSC weighs in on the 10 Year Plan Task Force's draft white paper, and any subsequent work before the January SPSC meeting, then the SPSC's Scenario Work Group will be responsible for organizing the full SPSC comments.
4. WIEB staff will provide summaries of the 10 Year Plan Task Force's meeting-by-meeting deliberations to the full SPSC. The state/provincial participants on the 10 Year Plan Task Force (John Savage, Grace Anderson, and Jim Tarpey) cannot and do not represent the SPSC on the group and will not convey any recommendations as SPSC recommendations.

John Savage then asked the group: what are the key issues in the development of a plan? For example, what do we do with the Foundational Projects? What issues do we need to address?

Michael Wheeler asked how should the SPSC members participate? SPSC members interested in this issue can all participate in the calls/meetings of the SPSC's Scenario Work Group. The 10 Year Plan Task Force was set up by TEPPC originally to be 3 members from TEPPC and 3 members from SPSG. After further discussion among interested parties, the chairs of TEPPC and SPSG agreed to have about 10 members. [Task force members: Bill Pascoe, chair, Grace Anderson (CEC), John Savage (OR PUC), Carl Zichella (NRDC), Julia Souder (Clean Line Energy), Jeff Billinton (AESO), Ed Higginbottom (BC Hydro), John Cupparo (PacifiCorp), Jim Baak (Vote Solar), Scott Cauchois (TEPPC Chair) and Jim Tarpey (SPSG Chair)].

Jim Tarpey provided background on the discussions at the SPSG meeting on September 15 in which many SPSG members expressed initial push back to the idea of the Foundational Projects because they were not part of the process in creating this list and were not familiar with the deliberations of the Subregional Planning Groups (SPGs) that form the Subregional Coordinating Group (SCG). But as the SPSG discussions continued and members were told that WECC staff will provide more information about the list, and that specific state representatives did not have issues with specific projects identified in their own state, the SPSG members seemed to have a growing comfort level with the projects on the Foundational List.

Kris Mayes participated in the SPSG discussions and pointed out that she did not have issue with any specific project in Arizona, but did question how the Foundational Project List was constructed. She recommended that the SPSC be engaged in the formation of such a list in the future.

Grace Anderson outlined her views for the 10 year plan. For this first TEPPC attempt at developing a 10 year plan, she noted that we don't have a lot of time to prepare the plan. We should view the plan in 2011 as a prototype plan that will be improved with successive rounds and integrated with the 20-year plan to be developed in 2013. Grace raised a methodological issue as to whether the plan should be (1) "normative" where the general outcome is chosen or policy driven and then developed in a top down approach, or (2) "rational" or "objective"

manner in which we review study results and draw conclusions in a bottoms up approach. Given the short timeline for this 10 plan, Grace favored using the “rational” methodology and waiting for the 20 year plan to create a “normative” type plan.

Grace Anderson also elaborated on a draft two page outline she developed for the 10 Year Plan Task Force. She proposed a comprehensive review of the studies that have been done by TEPPC, review of transmission projects proposed in the Western Interconnection (categories: constructed 2006-11, under construction, foundational-permitted, foundational-proposed, and potential-in permitting, and potential-conceptual), and a set of criteria for which projects would be selected for meeting the transmission congestion identified by the analysis. Grace’s proposed selection criteria for adding a project to the plan was as follows:

1. Certainty of commitment
2. Contribution to reliability
3. Contribution to relieving congestion on the highest congested paths
4. Responsiveness to public policy requirements
5. Degree of environmental compatibility

Jim Tarpey observed that it would have been preferable if TEPPC was developing the 20 year plan first to set the broad policy direction in a transmission plan and then use the 10 year plan to guide us on shorter term issues at to which projects to develop to put us on the right path.

Steve Ellenbecker acknowledged that it would be good to have the 20 year plan first and cross check with the 10 year plan to evaluate whether we are on course in meeting long-term plan objectives. But since DOE set the 10 year plan first, should we think of the 10 year plan as setting a glide path to an end point or outcomes envisioned in 20 years? Or should we just look at the 10 year plan as the objective outcome of the most likely result in 10 years?

John Savage identified Grace’s selection criteria as part of the polling to the full SPSC. It was agreed that the outreach to the full SPSC would occur after the Friday, October 1 call of the 10 Year Plan Task Force in order to incorporate any other relevant information.

There was consensus that the SPSC should be engaged in the future about decisions on which projects are on the Foundational List. Tom Carr noted that TEPPC has the authority to add or remove projects from the Foundational List and that SPSC could make a recommendation to TEPPC.

Michael Wheeler asked about the status of the discussion paper on contingent transmission projects. Tom Carr briefly outlined the concept. Jim Tarpey suggested that we address the discussion paper on the next call.