

TO: ATC Brainstorming Group

FROM: Doug Larson

DATE: January 4, 2005

SUBJECT: **Summary of January 4 Conference Call and Next Steps**

With 20 participants on the call<sup>1</sup>, the following next steps were agreed to:

- Modified the proposed study such that the initial screening study of actual flows and ATC would be limited to a selected group of paths. This will make the workload manageable and serve to identify potential difficulties in data quality and the meaning of study results.
- The following criteria were suggested to identify candidate paths for the initial screening study –
  - Commercially important paths as identified in the SSG-WI and RMATS transmission planning work;
  - At least one path with multiple owners to understand data and analysis problems associated with multiple owner paths;
  - Paths where historical flows are significantly below OTC;
  - At least one path between a good wind resource area and loads; and
  - Paths that might have been identified as problematic in the RTAs' 2000 biennial transmission plan.
- Participants will consult and report their respective organizations' willingness to lead or contribute to the study –
  - Dean Perry will consult the SSG-WI Steering Committee;
  - Steve Ashbaker/Mike Wells will consult with WECC management;
  - Susan Pollonais and Matthew Deal will consult with FERC staff.
- Doug Larson/Tom Carr will make edits to the first draft of the Strawman Recommendation to FERC on Assessing the Utilization of Transmission Paths based on the comments received.
- Doug Larson/Tom Carr will assemble information that could be used to apply the suggested criteria in selecting initial paths for study.

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<sup>1</sup> Doug Larson/Tom Carr, WIEB; Dean Perry, SSG-WI; Michael Milligan/Brian Parsons, NREL; Brendan Kirby, ORNL; Steve Ashbaker/Mike Wells, WECC; Jim Byrne, RMATS; Matthew Deal/Susan Pollonais/John Carlson/Bruce Poole/Jignasa Gadani/Annette Marsden/Peter Radway, FERC; Jerry Smith, APS; Marv Landauer/Janelle Schmidt, BPA; Phil Carver, Oregon DOE.

- The next call of the ATC Brainstorming Group will be at 10:00 a.m. PST/11:00 a.m. MST/1:00 p.m. EST on Friday, January 21. TO CONNECT TO THE CALL DIAL 973.935.2026. THE PASS CODE IS 311861.

Below are Doug Larson's and Tom Carr's notes on points made during today's conference call.

- Marv Landauer questioned the purpose and utility of the analysis effort and noted the difficulties that SSG-WI ran into on data problems.
- In response to a question, Mike Wells (WECC) reported that the WECC Market Interface Committee is alive and considering work on contract path ATC versus flow-based calculation of ATC and a conditional firm transmission product. However, the MIC does not have a work plan on these items.
- To reduce the workload requirement in the analysis, Jim Byrne suggested that an ad hoc group in the West needs to decide on representative paths for analysis.
- Jerry Smith reported on WestTTrans calculation and archiving ATC information. OATI is doing the ATC calculations for Southwest entities. Archiving of data began in April 2004. Historical ATC information is on individual company OASIS sites. Information that OATI uses to calculate ATC remains unchanged until the transmission owner supplies new information. Firm and non-firm ATC is calculated. WestTTrans does not collect information on net schedules. (WECC's EHV database contains total net schedule data as opposed to net schedule data in each direction.) Jerry will check on the form in which data from WestTTrans is archived.
- Steve Ashbaker reported that WECC audits of control areas does not look at ATC calculations because such calculations are not central to reliability. WECC's reliability audit of control areas are done every three years. Audits of non-control areas are done every 5-6 years. The EHV database now includes phase shifter information. WECC archives data for three years (back to 2001). WECC has a policy on the time delay in the release of data. Dean Perry reviewed the improvements to the EHV database recommended in the 2000 biennial transmission report (e.g., some report hourly OTC, others report maximum path capacity). These shortcomings in the EHV database have not been rectified. Steve also noted the Rocky Mountain security coordinator is suggesting an alternative source of data to that presently recorded in the EHV database. WECC staff will be exploring the idea.
- Marv Landauer outlined BPA's proposal to move toward a flow-based calculation of ATC from a contract-based approach. In implementing ATC, BPA would use a combined flow-based and contract-based methodology.
- Susan Pollonais noted that Western interests should be major participants in the initial study of selected paths, in part, because FERC does not have ready access to all the necessary data for the analysis.