**Meeting Summary**

**NorthWestern Energy Transmission Advisory Committee**

**December 21, 2016**

**9:30 AM, MDT**

**Meeting Participants**

This Transmission Advisory Committee (TRANSAC) meeting was conducted in person at NorthWestern Energy’s (NWE) offices in Butte, via teleconference and the internet site GoTo Meeting.com for those not able to join in person. Participants included:

**Name Organization**

At NorthWestern Energy (NWE) Offices

Eric Bahr NWE Regional Transmission Planning

Don Bauer NWE Electric Transmission Planning

Becki Christie NWE Regional Transmission Planning

Jim Hadley NWE Electric Transmission Planning

Josh Laurandeau NWE Regional Transmission Planning

Chelsea Loomis NWE Regional Transmission Planning

Kelly Lovell NWE Electric Transmission Planning

Mark Mallard NWE Electric Transmission Planning

Cathy Mathews NWE Electric Transmission Planning

Shea Mattix NWE Electric Transmission Planning

Kim McClafferty NWE Regional Transmission Planning

B. J. Schubert NWE Regional Transmission Planning

Dale Mahugh NWE Customer Care Key Accounts/Economic Dev/ Meeting Fac.

Jonathan Pytka Talen Energy

Via Telephone & Internet

Ken Neal NaturEner USA, LLC

Bill Pascoe Pascoe Energy Consulting representing Absaroka Energy

Virginia Wiseman EDP Renewables

**Administration**

**Anti-Trust and Standards of Conduct Review**

After completing introductions of those participating in person and by phone, Kelly Lovell shared NWE’s Antitrust Policy and the Standards of Conduct Policy and Safeguards with the group. These documents are available at NWE’s OASIS web address:

<http://www.oasis.oati.com/NWMT/NWMTdocs/01-Agenda_12-21-16-TRANSAC-Final.doc>

**Agenda**

Dale Mahugh next reviewed the posted agenda with the group.

**Acceptance of September 15, 2016 Meeting Summary**

Dale Mahugh asked if the participants had reviewed the meeting summary notes provided from the previous meeting and if there were any changes or corrections to be noted. There were none. For future reference, the September 15, 2016, meeting summary is posted at NWE’s OASIS web address:

<http://www.oasis.oati.com/NWMT/NWMTdocs/Transac_Notes_for_9_15_16_mtg_FINAL.docx>

**Action Item List**

Kelly Lovell reported there were no new action items or updates to report.

**Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) Load and Resource Data Request**

Cathy Mathews shared the Loads and Resources update and indicated that the 2016-2017 Winter assessment is now complete and should be posted to the NERC website yet in December. Additionally, Cathy noted that in early January, she will be contacting all of NWE’s large industrial customers and electric REC’s to obtain their forecasted ten year load data as well as generators to inquire of their plans for additions, reductions and planned maintenance. WECC and NERC is continuing to collect data on renewable resources and Cathy shared that WECC is proposing to replace two existing committees with a new Reliability Assessment Committee. More detail on this and the remainder of Cathy’s report can be accessed at NWE’s OASIS website address below:

<http://www.oasis.oati.com/NWMT/NWMTdocs/02-LR_Update.docx>

**Compliance Efforts**

Cathy Mathews next provided the Compliance update. Cathy shared details of several MOD’s that became effective recently and noted TPL-001-WECC-CRT-3 (aka WECC-0100) to become part of the TPL-001 requirements, was approved by the WECC Board of Directors on September 21, 2016 and became effective immediately. This was referenced in the September 15 meeting notes as a post script. For further detail, please refer to Cathy’s Compliance Update at NWE’s OASIS web site addresses below:

<http://www.oasis.oati.com/NWMT/NWMTdocs/03-Compliance_Update.docx>

**Generation Interconnection Update**

Becki Christie presented the Montana Generation and Interconnection Queue Update. Becki noted that there are a large number of projects in queue and there are signed SGIA/LGIA’s for 405 MW that is not in service. The current update is available and posted on NWE’s OASIS web site address:

<http://www.oasis.oati.com/NWMT/NWMTdocs/04-TRANSAC-GIA_Queue_Update_12-16.docx>

**Local Area Plan Update**

**State of the System Update**

If one recalls, Jim Hadley shared base case development at our last meeting along with results of the current year State of the System studies. For this meeting, Jim provided detail of the five, ten and fifteen year studies and problems found. It was noted that all of these scenarios are based on compliance with the updated TPL standards.

Don Bauer shared that next quarter, issues found will be prioritized and greater detail may be provided, along with mitigation suggestions.

Jim’s presentation contains considerable detail, so it is encouraged that anyone wanting to review it can access The Local Area Planning Update which is available at NWE’s OASIS website address below.

<http://www.oasis.oati.com/NWMT/NWMTdocs/05-Local_Area_Planning_Update_-_15yr.pptx>

**Quarter #5 Dates to be Aware of**

Kelly Lovell shared several deadlines related to economic studies, alternate solutions, and public policy requests with the group that they should be aware of in Quarter #5 of the 2016-2017 Local Area Planning Cycle. These are outlined at NWE’s Oasis website address below and includes additional web address detail for each item listed.

<http://www.oasis.oati.com/NWMT/NWMTdocs/06-2017_Annual_Stakeholder_Quarter_5-Submittal_Reminder.pdf>

**Regional and Bulk Electric System Updates**

Chelsea Loomis, joining the meeting by phone, next shared the Regional Planning update with the group and shared a number of significant items, including;

As shared in the last meeting, there are currently a large number of generation projects in queue (some new/some existing), including:

-300 MW wind generation at Colstrip (230kV)

-750 MW wind generation at Colstrip (500 kV)

-250 MW wind generation at Broadview (230 kV)

- 80 MW solar generation at Broadview (230 kV)

-300 MW solar generation at Broadview (500 kV)

-300 MW wind generation near Shorey Road

- 80 MW wind generation near Shorey Road

- 50 MW solar generation near Basin Creek (Butte) generation plant

- 80 MW solar generation near Alkali

-500 MW wind generation near Columbus

- 50 MW solar generation near Toston

-450 MW pumped hydro project (Gordon Butte) on the 500 kV between Garrison and

Broadview

-Several 20 MW wind projects and 3 MW solar (distribution level) interconnections

-It was noted that there are more projects in queue than all of NWE’s current load.

The Draft of the Regional Transmission Plan will be forwarded to NTTG members for review by December 23rd that includes a few regional projects.

NWPP is revising the Operating Agreement to include an “Executive Caucus” which will have more input into the Blackstart plan.

Concerning Blackstart, it was noted in the last meeting, the plan is being revised to change from Kerr start up to the Cochrane units. They have already gone through an early pre-pretest for startup and work will continue in 2017.

Study work continues with BPA/AVA, and after thorough testing, there is agreement that a 2200 MW rating is appropriate for Path 8 (East to West). Study work continues on this path concerning the potential loss of the Hot Springs 230 kV line.

***Question:***

Bill Pascoe noted that he was glad to hear that the removal of Colstrip 1 & 2 in the reviews was not an issue. He said that he had heard only 2000 MW was available on Path 8 and that the other 200 may not be available as it could initiate tripping issues on the Miles City DC line.

***Answer:***

Chelsea shared that the 2000 MW will remain firm, however the other 200 MW will not be recognized as firm.

**Action Item List Review**

No items were noted to be added.

**Upcoming Meetings**

The proposed schedule of 2017 meeting dates below was shared with the group and Dale asked everyone to review them and get back to Kelly as soon as possible if conflicts become evident.

* **March 15, 2017:** Transmission Advisory Committee (TRANSAC) – Meeting (Quarter 5)
* **June 14, 2017:** Transmission Advisory Committee (TRANSAC) – Meeting (Quarter 6)
* **September 14, 2017:**Transmission Advisory Committee (TRANSAC) – Meeting (Quarter 7)
* **December 13, 2017:** Transmission Advisory Committee (TRANSAC) – Meeting (Quarter 8)

**Adjournment**

After wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year, Dale ask if anyone had anything further to bring before the group. Hearing none, he thanked everyone for their participation and declared the meeting adjourned.

**Disclaimer**

Committee members provide advice to NWE as individual professionals; the advice they provide does not bind the agencies or organizations they serve.