

# Memorandum

**To:** ISO Board of Governors  
**From:** Keith Casey, Vice President of Market and Infrastructure Development  
**Date:** February 9, 2012  
**Re:** Briefing on Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee Activity

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***This memorandum does not require Board action.***

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee (TMCC) met on January 19, 2012 and discussed the following significant topics:

1. TMCC candidate search;
2. CPUC *Rulemaking R.08-11-005* on fire safety hazards;
3. CPUC Staff proposed *General Order for Substation Inspection*;
4. California Air Resources Board proposed SF<sub>6</sub> regulation requirements;
5. Recent TMCC experiences with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards; and
6. Major grid events.

The TMCC will meet in March 2012 to decide on the minutes of its January 19, 2012 meeting and approve TMCC voting member nominees. Minutes are posted to the meeting pages at: <http://www.caiso.com/Documents/Transmission%20Maintenance%20Coordination%20Committee%20archive>.

## BACKGROUND

In April 1998, in compliance with a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission order and a Board resolution, the California Independent System Operator Corporation established an advisory committee to the Board called the Maintenance Coordination Committee, subsequently renamed the Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee, and on

October 18, 2011, FERC approved the ISO filing to change the TMCC to be an advisory committee to ISO Management.

Members include one member representing each participating transmission owner (PTO) that has transmission facilities subject to the ISO transmission maintenance standards, two members representing organizations representing labor interests, five members representing other organizations, and the ISO vice president responsible for grid operations, or his or her designee, who shall serve as the Chair of the TMCC.

Members of the TMCC shall perform all duties specified in Appendix C to the transmission control agreement, including:

- Convey information to the Board periodically;
- Seek input from other PTOs and interested stakeholders regarding the ISO transmission maintenance standards;
- Review any proposed changes to the ISO transmission maintenance standards submitted by the ISO, a PTO, or any interested stakeholder, and recommend revisions to the ISO for approval; and
- Recommend amendments and revisions to the ISO transmission maintenance standards to the Board.

## **SUMMARY OF TMCC RECENT ACTIVITIES**

### ***TMCC Candidate Search***

Management is conducting a search for candidates to replace seven external voting members on the Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee.

- Candidates for these positions would replace or renew six external voting members whose terms expire on March 31, 2012 and one currently open position set to expire on March 31, 2013.
- Management issued a market notice on January 25, 2012 requesting prospective candidates submit their information by March 1, 2012.
- Management asked existing member organizations with expiring terms and all other interested stakeholders to submit their nominations.
- Management will present a list of recommended candidates to the TMCC voting members for approval at its March 2012 teleconference meeting.

To facilitate voting member continuity with one third of the voting memberships expiring every year, staggered terms will be introduced where at the end of the next two years, four of the seven positions will be assigned three year terms, two will be given two year terms, and the open position will be assigned a one year term. Organizations with terms expiring in 2012 include three of the four formal voting positions currently occupied by the

participating transmission owners (Pacific Gas and Electric, San Diego Gas and Electric, and Trans Bay Cable LLC), one of the two labor members (IBEW Local 47), and three of the five organizations representing others (City of Burbank Water and Power, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Western Wind Energy).

Candidates applying to fill these positions must be willing to commit to the length of their term. The TMCC presently meets on a quarterly basis, although it could be expected to meet more often.

### ***Briefing on CPUC Rulemaking 08-11-005 on Fire/Safety Hazards***

The TMCC was provided the current status of the proposed change to the *State of California General Order 165* regarding the California Consumer Protection Safety Division's (CPSD) activity on facilitating Phase 2 of OIR R.08-11-005 to reduce fire safety hazards in California. The proposed change to General Order 165 for allowing the CPUC to have access to all transmission facility inspection and maintenance records was approved by the CPUC on January 12, 2012. The CPSD is expecting to follow up on this approval with reviews in early spring and provide notice to affected utilities for these reviews in late February of 2012.

### ***Briefing on CPUC Draft General Order for Substation Inspections***

The TMCC was provided the current status on the development of the *General Order for Substation Inspection*. The purpose of this general order is to formulate, for the State of California, uniform requirements for substation inspection programs, the application of which will promote the safety of workers and the public and enable adequacy of service. As currently drafted, substation facilities subject to the California Independent System Operator's operational control and/or subject to FERC reliability standards and Customer Substations will be exempt from this General Order. Administrative Law Judge Douglas Long has been assigned to write a proposed decision which is still pending. The Order Instituting a Rulemaking (OIR) R.10-09-001 to implement this general order is on hold until the proposed decision is drafted. The CPSD of the CPUC will send data requests out in February or March of 2012 to affected utilities regardless of whether the *General Order for Substation Inspection* is approved.

### ***Briefing on California Air Resources Board SF<sub>6</sub> Regulation Requirements***

The TMCC was informed that gas insulated switchgear owners were mandated to complete a SF<sub>6</sub> inventory by January 1, 2012 in order to calculate their emission rates and demonstrate compliance with greenhouse gas emission reduction regulations (California Code of Regulations Title 17 Sub Article 3.1 Sections 95350-95359). Gas insulated switchgear owners are to submit their first annual report to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) by June 1, 2012 for calendar year 2011. A ten page FAQ document has been available on the California Air Resources Board website since November 30, 2011 to answer questions regarding the greenhouse gas emission reductions effort.

### ***Briefing on Recent TMCC Experiences with NERC Reliability Requirements***

The drafting committee finished addressing comments that came in for NERC Reliability Standard *PRC-005-2 (Protection System Maintenance and Testing)* and were scheduled to meet on 1/23/2012 in San Francisco to address going out for another ballot. Five new members were added to the drafting committee to provide a different view of the work coming in and replace those members not attending. PG&E and Southern California Edison accounted for two of the five new members. It is the belief of the drafting committee that this standard will pass this year.

Some TMCC members were concerned about NERC Reliability Standard *PRC-005-1a (Transmission and Generation Protection System Maintenance and Testing)* and the still yet to be developed Phase 2 definition of the bulk electric system. This standard is to ensure all transmission and generation protection systems affecting the reliability of the bulk electric system are maintained and tested. Thus, the utilities' concern is to what bulk electric system limits they should adhere to for compliance with the standard.

Comments are due on February 6, 2012 for NERC Order 754 (FERC's approval of NERC's interpretation of the reliability standard entitled "*System Performance Following Loss of a Single Bulk Electric System Element*") for those organizations concerned about any additional reliability issues concerning NERC's interpretation of a single point of failure on protection systems.

### ***Briefing on Major Grid Events and Analysis***

PG&E plans to brief the TMCC during the April 2012 TMCC meeting regarding two insulator assembly failures on one of their 500kV lines.

SCE plans to brief the TMCC during the April 2012 TMCC meeting regarding the root cause analysis of an insulator cap failure on their 500kV Midway-Vincent #1 line.