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TRANSMISSION MAINTENANCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (TMCC) MINUTES October 15, 2020 Webex

Steve Ruty, Acting Chairperson of the Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee (TMCC), called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

The following TMCC members attended:

James Alligan (NextEra Energy Transmission)
James Andresen (Valley Electric Association (VEA))
J. Bret Ball (San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E))
Tibor Foki (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 47 (IBEW 47))
Bob Gerstle (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1245 (IBEW 1245))
David Hahn (Western Area Power Administration (WAPA))
Alan Hernandez (Southern California Edison (SCE))
Maria Ly (Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E))
Chris McLean (California Energy Commission (CEC))
Charles Mee (California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC))
Steve Ruty (California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO)) – Acting Chairperson
Jim Useldinger (GridLiance West Transco (GWT))

The following TMCC members were not in attendance:

Jason Le (Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP))

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Lou Fonte (CAISO)
Monica Curry (SDG&E)
Ricardo Velarde (WAPA)
Michael Blunt (NextEra Energy Transmission)
Jeff Miller (WAPA)
Brian Brau (LS Power)
Chris Hillman (CAISO)
Scott Vaughan (CAISO)
Cameron Fredkin (LS Power)
Ross Hohlt (LS Power)

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The following agenda items were addressed:

Opening Comments:

Tibor Foki (IBEW 47) began a discussion on current industry news. The discussion focused on the following points;

- Discussion of batteries and fossil fuels as backups for reliability
- Tree trimming

Decision on 1/16/2020 General Session Minutes:

The January 16, 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Decision on 3/23/2020 Conference Call Minutes:

The March 23, 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

WAPA SNR Wildfire Mitigation Plan Implementation:

Ricardo Velarde, Western Area Power Administration Vegetation and Access Road Specialist, presented on the WAPA Sierra Nevada Region wildfire mitigation measures it has undertaken. Mr. Velarde explained that WAPA has implemented high resistance grounding and are exploring ways to minimize fault current on its lines in High Fire Threat Districts (HFTDs). WAPA is also focused on system hardening and has increased the frequency of its infrared and corona inspections in Tier 2 and 3 HFTDs.

COVID 19 and Wildfire impacts on transmission facility maintenance:

Steve Ruty, California ISO Director Grid Assets and acting chairperson, initiated a discussion on the impacts the pandemic and the wildfires currently burning on transmission maintenance.

Covid-19 not having a significant impact on maintenance as the Participating Transmission Owners (PTOs) have implemented measures to minimize the spread of the virus. PG&E has noted impacts resulting from travel restrictions and out of state contractors. Operators and control centers have been the PTOs primary concern in business continuity.

The wildfires are presenting air quality issues for crews and fire damage to transmission lines are pulling crews away from maintenance activities. SDG&E reported they observed contaminated insulators and melted aerial marker balls resulting from the Valley Fire.

Restricted Maintenance Operations:

Steve Ruty began a discussion on the impacts of Restricted Maintenance Operations periods on transmission facility maintenance. The PTOs described various degrees of impact, from no impacts to cancellation of all maintenance activities. California ISO Operating Procedure No. 4420E - Allowable *Transmission Maintenance Activities During Restricted Maintenance Operations*

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provides guidance on what maintenance activities can be performed. There is some confusion with the application of the procedure as some PTOs are cancelling all maintenance activities even permissible activities.

Open discussion items:

The discussion focused on the upcoming California Air Resources Board revisions to their regulation regarding to Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF6) emissions. Steve Rutty stated that the California ISO would be reaching out to the PTOs regarding any concerns the pending regulation would have system reliability or the ability to perform maintenance.

New Business Issues and Future Agenda Items:

Steve Rutty asked the members to work with the CAISO over the next few months to decide which topics they would like to discuss at the next TMCC meeting. Suggestions provided at the meeting included;

- Continued discussion on the pending SF6 regulations
- RC outage management process

TMCC MEMBER ACTION ITEMS

- ISO will draft the minutes for this meeting and post as a document for the January 21, 2021 TMCC meeting;
- ISO will post the approved minutes for the January 16, 2020 and March 23, 2020 TMCC meetings on the ISO website.
- ISO will distribute an updated membership roster to the members

The meeting was adjourned with no objections noted.

Confirm and appoint new members to the TMCC – Members Only Session:

Chris Hillman began the session by noting that the committee was voting to fill two TMCC membership positions. Mr. Hillman noted that these positions are designated for representation from SDG&E and DesertLink and that the ISO had received nominations from each of these organizations to serve as their representative member. SDG&E nominated Andrew Gzadziak to replace Bret Ball for the remainder of his term and DesertLink nominated Brian Brau to serve a three year term until March 31, 2023. The committee reviewed the qualifications of each of the proposed candidates and voted unanimously to approve the above nominations.