

Memorandum

To: ISO Board of Governors
From: Neil Millar, Vice President of Infrastructure and Operations Planning
Date: March 17, 2021
Re: Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee update

This memorandum does not require Board action.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee (TMCC) held teleconference meetings on October 15, 2020 and January 21, 2021. The following were the main topics discussed:

October 15, 2020

1. Presentation by Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) on their wildfire mitigation plan implementation;
2. COVID 19 and wildfire impacts on transmission facility maintenance;
3. Restricted maintenance operations.

January 21, 2021

1. California Air Resources Board (CARB) Sulphur Hexafluoride regulation revisions;
2. RC West Outage Coordination Process;

The next regular scheduled TMCC meeting will be held on April 15, 2021 via teleconference.

BACKGROUND

The TMCC is an advisory committee to ISO Management. TMCC membership includes one member representing each participating transmission owner (PTO) with 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 of Infrastructure and Operations planning, or his or her designee, who serves as the Chair of the TMCC.

Members of the TMCC perform duties specified in Appendix C to the transmission control agreement focused on maintaining the availability of transmission facilities, including:

- Conveying transmission facility maintenance-related information to the ISO vice president of Infrastructure and Operations Planning;
- Seeking input from participating transmission owners and interested stakeholders regarding the transmission maintenance standards; and
- Reviewing any proposed changes to the transmission maintenance standards submitted by the ISO, a participating transmission owner, or any interested stakeholder; and recommending revisions to the standards for submittal to the ISO Board of Governors for decision.

Summary of October 15, 2020 meeting

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) 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. WAPA is also focused on system hardening and has increased the frequency of its infrared and corona inspections in Tier 2 and 3 High Fire Threat Districts.

COVID 19 and wildfire impacts on transmission facility maintenance:

Steve Ruddy, California ISO Director of Grid Assets and acting TMCC chairperson, initiated a discussion on the impacts the pandemic and wildfires burning across California have on transmission maintenance.

The PTOs reported that Covid-19 was not having a significant impact on maintenance as they have implemented measures to minimize the spread of the virus. PG&E did note some impacts due to travel restrictions for out of state contractors.

The PTOs also reported that wildfires presented air quality issues for crews and that repairing fire damaged transmission lines pulled crews away from regular scheduled maintenance activities.

Restricted maintenance operations:

Mr. Ruddy initiated a discussion on the impacts restricted maintenance operations periods are having on overall transmission facility maintenance. For background, the California ISO Operating Procedure No. 4420E - Allowable *Transmission Maintenance Activities During Restricted Maintenance Operations*, provides guidance on what maintenance activities can

be performed during restricted periods. The PTOs described various degrees of impacts from none to more significant. One PTO mentioned that there may be internal confusion with the application of the procedure and therefore, to be on the safe side, their grid operations cancels all transmission facility maintenance activities, even the permissible activities. Mr. Rutty requested that each PTO internally review the procedure and bring back any recommended clarifications to the TMCC for consideration.

Summary of January 16, 2021 meeting

California Air Resources Board (CARB) Sulphur Hexafluoride regulation revisions:

Mr. Rutty initiated a discussion about pending changes to CARB's regulation regarding Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF6) emissions from gas insulated switchgear. Mr. Rutty explained that the California ISO requested the PTOs to provide the ISO with any concerns they have with the proposed revised regulation. The responses received centered on the proposed regulations notification process and the definition of catastrophic failure. Mr. Rutty stated that the ISO agreed with the PTO's concerns and have shared them with the CARB team working on the proposed regulations. The PTOs shared their experiences with 69 kV class non-SF6 equipment and discussed the potential challenges with the proposed regulations at extra high voltage applications.

RC West Outage Coordination Process:

Samson Adigun, California ISO Lead Reliability Coordinator, presented on RC West procedure RC0630 Outage Coordination Process.

Mr. Adigun reviewed the responsibilities of both the transmission operator and the balancing authority in the coordination process, then described the transmission outages that fall into the scope of the RC outage process and the timing requirements. The presentation went on to explain the process for evaluating the impact of outages and the process for resolving conflicts.