

# Memorandum

**To:** ISO Board of Governors  
**From:** Jim Detmers, Vice President of Operations  
Steve Rutty, Manager of Grid Assets  
**Date:** May 13, 2008  
**Re:** *Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee Activity Update*

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*This memorandum is for Board information only.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This memo is intended to keep the Board informed of recent activities of the Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee (TMCC). The TMCC met on April 17, 2008. The following significant topics were addressed:

- TMCC Board Approved Members
- Congestion Revenue Rights (CRR)
- Off Rights-of-Way (ROW) Vegetation Management Policy
- Best Practices: San Diego Gas & Electric (SDGE) Geographic Information System (GIS)
- Recent TMCC experiences with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standards
- CAISO Maintenance Procedure 2 Revision
- The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) Maintenance/Inspection Guide
- Major Grid Events – SDGE & Southern California Edison (SCE) in April 2008

The next meeting of the TMCC is scheduled for July 17, 2008 and official minutes of the April 17, 2008 TMCC meeting will be approved at that time.

## BACKGROUND

**TMCC CAISO Board Approved Members:** Participants of the TMCC meeting were notified that the CAISO Board of Governors appointed on March 26, 2008 seven candidates to fill seven of the eleven external voting memberships. The appointed members and organizations they represent are: Mike Palusso (SCE), Frank Johnson (SDGE), Gregg Lemler of Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Tibor Foki (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 47), Jorge Somoano (City of Riverside), David Haerle (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power), and Charles Cooper (Western Area Power Administration).

**Congestion Revenue Rights (CRRs):** Jim McHan (CAISO) provided the TMCC participants with a March 25, 2008 CAISO issue paper titled "The CRR Year 2 Release Process and Other CRR Issues" being used in an ongoing CRR stakeholder process. Included in this document was a proposal for the 30-day Rule on scheduling transmission outages. Section 6 of this paper makes the following proposals:

- 1) The "30-day Rule" for managing transmission outages that may impact CRRs should be modified so that outages initiated and completed within a 24 hour period are exempt.
- 2) The CAISO will not be in a position to grant 30-day rule exemptions for the first year of MRTU operation.
- 3) The CAISO will assess the effectiveness of both the 30-day Rule and its approach to modeling outages in the monthly CRR process as actual experience with LMP market is gained.

The stakeholder process provided time to make comments in late April and early May for those wishing to provide input. A subsequent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) filing in late May would provide an additional chance to make comments during FERC's open for comments period.

### **Off Rights-of-Way Vegetation Management Policy**

Gregg Lemler (PG&E) provided a presentation from a Participating Transmission Owner's (PTO) view of how the TMCC should proceed to bring about a viable off ROW vegetation management maintenance practice. After discussion the TMCC suggested the CAISO investigate the development of a support policy document to be provided for the PTOs whenever they attempt to obtain permission from appropriate agencies/land owners to perform off ROW vegetation management maintenance.

**Best Practices: SDGE GIS Program:** Liz Witztum and Bret Ball of SDGE provided the Committee with a presentation of the geographic information system currently used by the SDGE to track their transmission facilities.

**Recent TMCC experiences with NERC Reliability Standards:** Frank Johnson (SDGE) provided the Committee with language currently used by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) to address the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) definition of what the "bulk electric system" is in the NERC Reliability Standards. To provide clarity on "bulk electric system", Mr. Johnson referenced Docket No. RM06-000, Notice of Proposed Rule Making, where NERC submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) an informational compliance filing to include a complete set of regional definitions of bulk electric system and any regional documents that identify critical facilities to which the Reliability Standards apply. WECC's definition is found on Pages 13 and 14 of the docket.

Mike Palusso (SCE) indicated their company had completed a full audit with NERC in 2005.

Jim Jackson (BPA) stated BPA had completed a NERC full audit in the first quarter of 2008.

**Maintenance Procedure 2 Revision:** Tom Halford (CAISO) led a discussion on revising Maintenance Procedure 2 to allow for use of only forced outage data while under ISO Operational Control (at least 10 years), as opposed to the current practice of including data prior to the ISO Operational Control (up to 20 years) and three other alternatives. The TMCC was provided control chart limits for these five alternatives using forced outages provided by the PTOs. Control chart limits are thresholds currently used by the CAISO to measure if a PTO's maintenance practices are effective. These five alternatives will be reviewed by the PTOs to help determine which data should be used in future control chart limit development.

**IEEE Maintenance/Inspection Guide:** Jim McHan indicated another revision to this draft transmission line maintenance guide is planned to be available from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) group after July 20, 2008.

**Major Grid Events: SDGE and SCE Outages in April:** Bret Ball (SDGE) provided a brief summary of the recent outage of a 230kV line coming out of San Onofre. A bad batch of 230kV polymer insulators manufactured in 2002 appear to have been the cause of a string of insulators failing in a brittle fracture mode. SDGE is in the process of changing out all of the polymer insulators at San Onofre that were in this batch.

SCE and SDGE also reported wavetrapped failures due to connecting shackles. Solutions currently in place for these failures were to use stainless steel shackles or RTV (Room Temperature Vulcanizing) coated shackles.

*Details of the above topics are available after the TMCC approves the Official minutes for the April 17, 2008 TMCC meeting. Official minutes for TMCC meetings appear at this link:  
<http://www.caiso.com/pubinfo/BOG/documents/grid/mcc/archives.html>*