



Memorandum

To: CAISO Board of Governors
From: Laura Manz, Vice President of Market and Infrastructure Development
Date: August 29, 2008
Re: Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee Activity Update

This memorandum does not require Board action.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This memo intends to inform the Board of recent Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee (TMCC) activities. The TMCC met on July 17, 2008 and addressed the following significant topics:

- Congestion revenue rights;
- Vegetation management within or outside of *rights-of-way*;
- Recent TMCC experiences with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards;
- California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO) Maintenance Procedure 2 revision;
- The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) *Maintenance/Inspection Data Guide*; and
- Major grid event concerning Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) on June 28, 2008.

The TMCC scheduled their next meeting for October 16, 2008 and at that meeting will approve the official minutes of the July 17, 2008 TMCC meeting.

BACKGROUND

Congestion revenue rights

CAISO Senior Grid Asset Engineer, Jim McHan, provided TMCC participants with a hard copy of the July 7, 2008 CAISO Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) filing (docket numbers ER08-1059, ER06-615, ER07-1257, and ER08-519). This filing answered other parties' motions to intervene, comments, and protests to the CAISO May 30, 2008 FERC filing on congestion revenue rights.

Mr. McHan briefly addressed CAISO answers to the 30-day rule, presented in the first part of the July 7, 2008 filing. The complete set of CAISO answers can be found on the CAISO website at: <http://www.caiso.com/1ffd/1ffdcb772290.pdf>.

Participating transmission owner (PTO) members of TMCC understood that one key CAISO answer centered on the implementation workshop regarding the 30-day advance submission rule for outages. This mid-September 2008 workshop at the CAISO Folsom headquarters will allow each participating transmission owner's outage schedulers and maintenance planners to become familiar with the 30-day advance submission process before it goes live along with the Market Redesign and Technology Upgrade (MRTU).

Vegetation management within or outside of rights-of-way

At the April TMCC meeting, Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Director of Transmission Substation Maintenance and Construction, Gregg Lemler, requested CAISO develop a support policy document, available for PTOs whenever they attempt to obtain permission from appropriate agencies or land owners to perform vegetation management within or outside of *right-of-way*. CAISO prepared a draft policy document to review and comment on during this TMCC meeting. The draft policy document reflected CAISO support for CAISO-adopted maintenance practices and was not limited to vegetation management. CAISO Senior Counsel Daniel Shonkwiler, with input from CAISO Manager of Grid Assets, Stephen Ruty, and CAISO Grid Asset Engineer, Tom Halford, crafted this support document and facilitated the review and comment period at this TMCC meeting. CAISO Management will send this revised version to affected CAISO departments for their input during the month of August and will get this document back out to the TMCC members at around the beginning of September. The TMCC expects CAISO and PTO review of the revised document to lead to a final version at the October 16, 2008 TMCC meeting. The final document will be posted to the CAISO website.

Recent TMCC experiences with NERC reliability standards

Southern California Edison's (SCE) Manager Transmission/Substation Maintenance & Inspection, Mike Palusso, indicated his company just completed a Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) mock audit using an outside party. The outside party believed SCE may be too conservative with regard to the frequency of their relay testing cycles, and that SCE may find it difficult to continually meet their aggressive relay testing schedules. In other words, SCE may fail to comply with NERC standards by trying to maintain those frequencies, while actually testing more than required by industry standards. The outside party recommended that SCE look at changing their relay test cycles to more closely match up with the NERC technical reference *Protection System Maintenance*, dated September 13, 2007. NERC's website provides access to this document. Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) Maintenance Manager, Charles Cooper, indicated this document looks at testing cycles for five different classes of relays. Mr. Cooper stated NERC scheduled an audit of WAPA in December 2008.

Maintenance procedure 2 revision

Tom Halford led a discussion on revising maintenance procedure 2 (*CAISO Transmission Maintenance Standard Guideline for Availability Measure Data*). Five alternatives were discussed:

1. Allow using only pre-CAISO forced outage data (preferably 10 years);
2. Allow using only forced outage data while under CAISO Operational Control (at least 10 years);
3. Allow using all forced outage data (up to 10 years pre-CAISO and 10 years while under ISO);
4. Continue the current practice (prior alternative with removal of CAISO yearly data that triggered tests) (up to 20 years); or
5. Continue the current practice, except remove one year of oldest pre-CAISO data for every new valid year added while under CAISO (at least 15 years).

At the April meeting, CAISO provided control chart limits for these five alternatives and at the July TMCC meeting, provided the control and warning limit bandwidths to supplement the information needed to make an informed decision. CAISO uses the control chart limits as thresholds to measure the effectiveness of a participating transmission owner's maintenance practices. The TMCC plans to vote on and select one of the five alternatives to determine future control chart limit development at its October meeting. The alternative selected will be required to be used by the PTOs in preparing their 2009 availability reports.

IEEE Maintenance/Inspection Data Guide

Mr. McHan stated the committee crafting this document meets on July 21, 2008 and will make available to the TMCC the most recent draft of the *Guide for Collecting and Managing Transmission Line Inspection and Maintenance Data* available to TMCC after that meeting.

Major grid events

Bonneville Power Authority's (BPA) Jim Jackson reported WECC gave BPA six directives after their 230kV Big Eddy-Chemawa line experienced tree contact on June 28, 2008. The most impacting significant directive required the BPA to comprehensively inspect all their transmission rights-of-way occupied by lines critical to bulk power reliability. WECC requires this inspection be completed within a 90-day time frame, beginning on July 3, 2008. Mr. Jackson indicated that requiring BPA field crews to work 12-hour days to complete this work will cost BPA approximately \$4 million. Because BPA transmission facilities are primarily located in the northwest, all of their bulk power lines are over trees, some species of which can grow four to six feet per year.

The TMCC will approve the Official Minutes for the July 17, 2008 Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee Meeting at the October 16, 2008 TMCC meeting. Official Minutes of TMCC meetings appear at this link:

<http://www.caiso.com/pubinfo/BOG/documents/grid/mcc/archives.html> .