

July 14, 2025

## **TRANSMISSION MAINTENANCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (TMCC) MINUTES**

**April 24, 2025****In person and Webex**

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Scott Vaughan, Acting Chairperson of the Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee (TMCC), called the meeting to order at approximately 9:15 a.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### ***The following TMCC members attended:***

Jed Ferguson (Valley Electric Association (VEA))  
Jim Useldinger (GridLiance West Transco (GWT))  
Ross Hohlt (DesertLink)  
James Alligan (NextEra)  
Michael Blunt (Trans Bay Cable)  
Dave Hahn (Western Area Power Administration (WASN))  
Ali Amirali (Delaney Colorado River Transmission (DCRT))  
Tibor Foki (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 47 (IBEW 47))  
Charles Mee (California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC))  
Alan Hernandez (Southern California Edison (SCE))  
Christian Henderson (San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E))

#### ***The following TMCC members were not in attendance:***

Maria Ly (Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E))  
Ethan Stonecipher (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1245 (IBEW 1245))

#### ***The following members of the public were in attendance:***

Chad Dupuis (Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E))  
Justin Flores (Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E))  
John Randolph (LS POWER)  
Matthew Eck (LS POWER)  
Alexandre Veilleux (NextEra)  
Oscar Bonilla Portillo (Southern California Edison)  
Francisco Canales (Southern California Edison)  
Thuan Tran (Southern California Edison)  
Adalberto Baca-Chavez (CAISO)  
Kingsley Tenjoh (CAISO)  
Rod Tshunza (CAISO)  
Parikshat Pathak (CAISO)  
Debbie Rowe (CAISO)

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Brittany Beston(Pacific Gas &Electric)

The following agenda items were addressed:

***Opening Comments:***

Scott Vaughan, Acting Chairperson of the TMCC, began a discussion for a motion to approve previous General Sessions Minutes and to vote on new CPUC TMCC representative Charles Mee

***Decision on 03/27/2025 General Session Minutes:***

The March 27, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

***Decision on 01/27/2025 General Session Minutes:***

The January 27, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

***Decision on 10/17/2024 General Session Minutes:***

The October 17, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Vote on new CPUC TMCC Representative Charles Mee with no objection.**

**Gates Dynamic Reactive Support Project (Orchard Substation)**

Ross Hohlt Director, LS Power's Asset Management, John Randolph, LS Power's Principal Engineer and Matthew Eck, LS Power's Sr. Manager, Transmission Asset Management presentation detailed the Gates 500 kV Dynamic Reactive Support Project, which encompassed planning, development, and operational aspects of the Orchard Substation. A key focus of the presentation was the STATCOM control system, with discussion on the STATCOM's function in maintaining a steady voltage of 530 kV over several days in March 2025. The STATCOM unit includes 60 variable speed fans for thermal control. Discussions also included considerations around the balance between MVAR usage and grid voltage control, highlighting the operational optimization of this reactive power support system.

**Transformer Seismic Retrofits at Suncrest Static Var Compensator (SVC) Substation**

Alexandre Veilleux, *Horizon West's Senior Engineer* presented a project review of the successful Suncrest Transformer Seismic Retrofit, completed in Spring 2022. The project scope involved removing existing transformers from their foundations and reinstalling them on new custom-designed steel platforms. To enhance seismic resilience, seismic pads, specifically triple pendulum isolators, were added between the foundations and platforms. Furthermore, the low side bus and conduit connections were modified to allow for 24 inches of horizontal movement and 2 inches of

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vertical movement during seismic events. Inspection of the transformer post-earthquake events showed no damage. Following this presentation, there was a question raised regarding porcelain insulator considerations for earthquakes.

### **Transbay Cable 15 Years of HVDC**

Michael Blunt – TBC's Operations Manager presentation focused on the Transbay Cable system, the first MMC-VSC in service supplying 40% of San Francisco's load. The discussion covered technical specifications, including its half-bridge symmetrical monopole design with a floor-mounted converter using IGBTs (Siemens MMC-VSC "Type 1"). Key features are a floor-mounted arrangement with 216 modules per phase arm (1296 total across 6 phase arms,  $\pm 2.0$  kV per capacitor). TBC shared findings from a Siemens collaboration on IGBT performance, which found no degradation in modules from the Potrero (Station B) Converter after 14 years of service.

### **Static Var Compensator (SVC) Overview, Maintenance Practices, and Strategy**

Oscar Bonilla Portillo, Thuan Tran and Francisco Canales of Southern California Edison presentation explained how Static VAR Compensators (SVCs) help control voltage on the power grid. SVCs use technology to quickly adjust reactive power, which is essential for maintaining a stable electrical system. SCE discussed how SVCs respond to voltage changes after events like faults, ensuring the grid stays within safe operating limits. They also provided details on SVC units on their system, including the Rector and Devers SVCs, highlighting their capabilities and upgrade plans along with maintenance practices.

### ***NERC Reliability Standards, CIP and Compliance:***

VEA mentioned experiencing some issues with late notifications from WECC Gridliance mentioned they successfully completed NERC Audit

### ***Open discussion items:***

The meeting included open discussions on several key concerns and future discussion items:

- Tibor Foki spoke about current industry news.
- **Renewable Energy Transition:** There was discussion regarding concerns about the state's rapid shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources and the resulting changes to the energy landscape. The CPUC report's allocation of responsibility for renewable integration costs to ratepayers was also mentioned.
- **Increased Power Demand:** The significant power requirements of data centers were highlighted as a topic of concern.
- **Fire Prevention:** Modifications to GO167, relating to fire prevention approaches, were discussed.

Future discussion items were identified as:

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- Maintenance deferral and impacts to maintenance of protracted parts and equipment deliveries.
- Fire mitigation provisions and the importance of community involvement in different approaches.
- Abandoned or idle plant maintenance practices
- Deferral process review and discussion
- SCE radiography use for circuit breaker maintenance.
- SMRS tracking and repair definition for data analysis and trending.
- Co- location of BESS systems in high voltage substation and special design considerations
- Western Area Power Administrations implementation of bushing/insulator leakage current monitors.
- PG&E transmission line deadend insulator replacement program
- Vacuum circuit breakers used for tertiary reactor switching maintenance practices and failure modes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 with no objections noted.