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The time for comments is near

In the next few days, BPA will formally request comments on whether it should further pursue improved grid operation and planning through:

- Grid West,
- The Transmission Improvements Group, or
- BPA's own independent actions.

The comment period will close Sept. 9. BPA has committed to pick a direction by the end of September. While this is not a final decision, it is a significant turning point down a particular path. The sheer volume of information available for your consideration is quite substantial. We look forward to receiving your thoughtful comment. (*Allen Burns*)

Grid West, TIG wrap up their proposals

Grid West unveiled its full proposal for Decision Point #2 to more than 100 attendees at a Regional Representatives Group meeting in Portland on July 27. Grid West's proposal contains considerable depth in its descriptions of Grid West's proposed operation and services.

TIG has made immense strides in the last few weeks, and is preparing a complete proposal outlining its contract-based approach to transmission coordination. At its July 21-22 meeting, the TIG steering group agreed to proposed principles for a general TIG Coordinating Agreement and outlined a draft structure for sets of contracts utilities would use to coordinate their operation and planning.

TIG will present its complete package to the region in two workshops entitled, "An incremental approach to transmission system improvements," Aug. 3 in Portland and Aug. 10 in Boise. See: http://www.tig-nw.kristiwallis.com/wp-content/TIGMaster_Calendar_as_of_07.25.05.pdf

Grid West package available

Grid West has posted most of its information for Decision Point #2 at:

<http://www.gridwest.org/DP2Info.htm>. The package includes:

- Integrated Proposal Description
- Market and Operations Design Overview
- Pricing White Paper
- Declaratory Filing and FERC Order
- Preliminary Estimates of Costs and Benefits
- Background on Bylaws.

Grid West also has recently released a new Planning White Paper. It is now available on the Grid West web site at http://www.gridwest.org/Doc/Release-Draft_PlanningExpansion_v1-0.pdf In August, Grid West will add materials on near-term services it could provide. *(Tara Exe)*

TIG package out shortly

The Transmission Improvements Group will post its full proposal Aug. 2 on its web site at <http://www.tig-nw.org> It will include separate sections on:

- Proposed Principles for a TIG Coordinating Agreement (pdf)
- Market Monitoring
- Planning and Expansion
- Common OASIS
- Reliability and Security
- Flow-Based ATC

Around Aug. 5, TIG will add a preliminary cost-benefit analysis of its proposal. *(Tara Exe)*

FERC cancels SMD

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announced July 19 that it is terminating its proposed Standard Market Design for wholesale electricity transmission and power. FERC said it will instead pursue amendments to its Order 888 and its pro forma transmission tariff design. See FERC's press release at:

<http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/common/OpenNat.asp?fileID=10671086> *(Sonya Baskerville)*

Council continues Resource Adequacy effort

Based on many conversations over the last few months, there is considerable agreement in the Northwest utility community on the need to develop regional and perhaps sub-regional resource adequacy metrics and targets, which would constitute a resource adequacy standard, so that the Pacific Northwest, at least, has a common approach for evaluating whether it has adequate resources to meet load obligations. There is also significant support for establishing a framework to implement such a standard, although views on mechanisms to implement a resource adequacy standard vary widely.

Given this positive response, the first meeting of the PNW Resource Adequacy Technical Committee was held on June 28 under the auspices of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. The Council's Resource Adequacy effort will improve future Northwest energy assessment submittals to WECC. *(Mary Johannis)*

WECC to address Western resource adequacy

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council is creating a Loads and Resources Subcommittee to improve the WECC loads and resources data collection process and to develop a methodology for assessing resource adequacy of the Western Interconnection (WI) as well as its subareas. A key recommendation is that in addition to assessing whether there is sufficient capacity to meet peak hour load that energy assessments also be performed annually. These assessments will be part of the improved Power Supply Assessments (PSAs), which are performed on an annual basis. *(Mary Johannis)*

Northwest One-Utility Grid News Purpose Statement

The Northwest transmission system is becoming increasingly constrained; there is broad regional agreement that the status quo needs to be improved. BPA believes it is important for the region to pick a path - soon - and move from discussion toward action. Two competing approaches are being developed: the Transmission Improvements Group would work within existing institutions, while Grid West would create a new transmission services provider under FERC jurisdiction. BPA is actively participating in both efforts through this summer. This September, BPA will decide to move forward with one of these approaches. Our decision will be driven by what we believe is in the collective best interest of the region and will follow a formal BPA request for public comments. These e-mails, issued biweekly now through September, are intended to keep any and all interested parties apprised of involvement opportunities and BPA's perspective. To receive subsequent editions, go to <<<http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/business/restructuring/>>> and sign up for "Allen's bi-weekly e-mail."

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