

## **OUTAGE PLANNING SEAMS ISSUE PAPER FOR WORKSHOP BREAKOUT DISCUSSION**

**ISSUE:** What are the seams issues associated with RTO outage planning? What are potential solutions?

**BACKGROUND:**

The NW uses the NWPP Coordinated Outages System for coordinating outages between transmission owners and taking transmission user input to mitigate impacts of planned outages on the market. Outages are scheduled at times that minimize impacts on the market. CAISO participates in this process for outage scheduling on the COI.

Paths such as COI, PDCI, and NW – Canada are often significantly impacted by outage restrictions, creating outage period congestion on these paths.

Differences exist between the level of participation and outage planning horizons of various parties in the NW. Also, it is not clear how outage durations are optimized against market impacts. Some suggest that maintenance practices are designed to minimize transmission O&M costs and availability can be improved at relatively modest costs.

What can/should NWRTO do to address outage planning at the Seams? Should additional maintenance costs to reduce outage costs be passed on directly to users or “socialized”? If the latter, how should the tariff recover the costs?