

Brief Summary of RTO West RRG Meeting August 20-21, 2003

Introduction

This summary is intended to describe the major topics of discussion during the August 20 and 21, 2003 meeting of the RTO West Regional Representatives Group (RRG). It is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of anyone's remarks, and it is not intended to suggest that any particular representative or entity at the RRG meeting agreed with or endorsed the views described in this summary.

Overview of August 20-21 Meeting

- A RTO West RRG meeting was held at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel on August 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and August 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Approximately 65 parties attended, including approximately 29 designated RRG representatives. Five state representatives attended the RRG meeting, and one state representative listened by phone.
- The August 6th RRG meeting was summarized.
 - 1) On August 6th the RRG continued discussing what problems and opportunities warranted action, working through categories on the list that were not completed at the July 31st meeting. The RRG finished evaluating the entire list, and after the meeting the Coordinating Team posted the list in the "raw" form it was recorded at the meeting. Additionally, the Coordinating Team refined the list and posted the refined list for RRG feedback on misstatements or omissions. Several responses were received and the list, incorporating some of the input received, was posted on August 15 for final review at the August 20-21 meeting.
- On August 20, the RRG briefly reviewed the refined list of problems and opportunities¹ and deemed the list okay and ready for moving on to the next step question, acknowledging there was some overlap and linkage between the categories.
- During the morning of August 20, the RRG considered a straw proposal for how to address the problems on the list with a focus on identifying solutions and information about solutions.
- The RRG then decided to try identifying solutions sets for the category of planning, ending up with two basic options (described on page 2 of this summary).
- Next the RRG discussed clustering categories of linked problems and by the end of the meeting developed a schedule of RRG meetings and work activity for preparing solution packages, followed by comparing packages and looking for common ground (schedule and work activity details on page 2 of this summary and posted on Website).

¹ At the July 31st meeting the transmission providers requested inclusion of a disclaimer in the written notes of these discussions that any statement of a consensus that a regional problem or opportunity exists is not an indication that a particular transmission provider agrees that the problem exists on its own system or has a duty or responsibility under tariff, law, or regulation to correct the problem. There was no objection to the disclaimer.

Straw Proposal for Answering the Next Step Question

- A straw proposal was put forth by the filing utilities for RRG consideration. The proposal suggested that the next phase of discussions identify a range of *potential* solutions to address the list of problems and opportunities, the idea being that describing solutions helps to clarify the problem. Specific steps and questions were suggested in the straw proposal. The RRG generally like the approach, but did not want to lose sight of the question: Is RTO West the right vehicle to implement needed solutions?

Solution Proposals for Transmission Planning

- The RRG spent the remainder of the first day discussing solution options to “Obstacles or Uncertainties Associated with Long-Term Investment” (a.k.a. planning and expansion). They came up with a possible consensus on criteria for evaluating potential transmission planning solutions, and essentially two basic options for transmission planning:
 - 1) RTO West Stage 2 (with interconnection-wide coordination through SSG-WI) – consider whether there are desirable refinements, if phase-in should be an option; and
 - 2) Regional approach that does not rely on an RTO (nor assume there will be an RTO) with exploration of how to address expansion (implementation).

Logical Groupings to Problems and Opportunities

- Options were put forth to address groups of the most important issues. For instance to address the overall category of congestion, the RRG wanted to develop more detail about:
 - 1) the RTO West proposal (use as a foundation for adding detail);
 - 2) an “enhanced” independent scheduler (subgroups within this option);
 - 3) an approach to “maximize ATC”.
- Some participants thought there may end up being RTO West and an alternative. The key question is how well does the solution address the problems. It’s also important to judge alternatives against a common set of problems, and some analysis of benefits has to follow.
- The RRG decided other categories of issues also needed discussion before they were ready to consider detailed solution alternatives. To that end the following schedule of meetings and work was developed:

Schedule of RRG Meetings and Work Activity for September 3 through September 23, 2003

Before September 3 RRG meeting:

- Coordinating team will:
 - develop template for preparing descriptions of packages (and post on Website)
 - o refine the “problems and opportunities” list to track with template (and post on Website)
 - o post updated RRG list
 - o post synthesis of where RRG discussions on August 20 and 21 ended up

September 3 – discuss the major areas still remaining in “brainstorming” mode

- Embedded system cost recovery
- Pancaked transmission rates/general “transactional” pancaking
- Long-term access (establishing customer relationship with transmission provider, including interconnection)
- Ancillary services, control area functions, and short-term reliability

September 4 – identify the groupings of different options that would be written up as packages, and who will write them up

September 10 and 11 – work sessions to develop packages, to be released for review in time for meetings on September 22 and 23; *ground rule*: working on a proposal does not constitute endorsing the proposal

Packages to be delivered for posting by close of business on September 17

Monday, September 22 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Tuesday, September 23 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) (new added meeting to schedule) – Discuss packages; look for common ground; decide what analytical work should be done with respect to the packages, how to do it, and how long it will take; decide on what happens next (meeting schedules and further work)

Next RRG Meeting September 3 and 4

- The next meeting of the RRG is Wednesday, September 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, September 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. PDT at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. On September 3 the RRG will brainstorm the major areas still remaining and on September 4 identify the groupings of different options and who will would write them up as packages.