

Brief Summary of RTO West RRG Meeting November 19 and 20, 2003

Introduction

This summary is intended to briefly describe the major topics of discussion during the November 19 and 20 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 November 19 and 20 Meeting

- A RTO West RRG meeting was held at the Shilo Inn Suites Hotel, near the Portland Airport, on Wednesday, November 19, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, November 20, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. PST.
- Approximately 75 people attended the RRG meeting, including approximately 33 designated RRG representatives. Five state representatives attended the meeting and one state representative listened by phone.
- Eight members of the RRG, selected to serve on a drafting group (subsequently renamed the platform group), presented and answered questions about a draft proposal for an independent transmission service provider entity (IE), which they developed after the October 29-30 RRG meeting.
- The RRG considered the proposal and each RRG representative voiced support, although some also noted concerns, for moving forward with further development of the proposal.
- The RRG offered some points for the platform group to consider as the group clarifies and adds details to the proposal, and makes sure "all major planks" are "nailed down." RRG members were asked to send their complete list of items for the platform group's consideration to Chris Elliott, RTO West Coordinating Team by November 26, if possible, and not later than December 1.
- The RRG developed a near-term work plan, which is currently posted through the RRG page of the RTO West website at http://www.rto west.com/RRG_Main.htm .
- The RRG agreed to meet again on December 10 and 11, 2003.

Presentation of RRG Platform Group Proposal

The platform group's proposal was posted on the RTO West website on November 17, 2003 and also distributed at the meeting. The document includes an introductory overview of the proposal for an independent entity (IE) providing transmission services to the region. The details, developed thus far by the platform group, are contained in a table that lays out staged implementation plus a governance proposal for regional accountability for key evolutionary steps.

Each platform group member explained specific functions and features of the proposal, describing the problems addressed by the proposal, the beginning state of the IE, the interim state and transition process, and the advanced target state.

The RRG asked a number of clarifying questions. Many questions came up about both the nature of transmission service the IE proposes to provide in the beginning state and how those services could evolve to a fully IE -operated end-state. There were also many questions and concerns expressed about new governance features the platform group recommended adding to the stage 2 governance proposal. The new governance features are intended to provide greater input from and accountability to the region.

RRG Response and Support for the Draft Platform Proposal

On November 20, after questions and discussion, RRG representatives were asked if they could support the platform group's proposal as the basis to build on. In other words, does the proposal show enough promise that it is worth investing more time and effort?

Each RRG member, in turn, expressed support for adding more details and developing the proposal further. Many RRG members commended the platform group and expressed optimism that the proposal was a very good foundation to build on; others said they supported moving forward, although they had concerns about some features in the proposal.

RRG's Initial List of Items for Consideration by the Platform Group

Also on November 20, the RRG had time to list questions for the platform group to consider and address while they further develop the proposal. The platform group noted these questions and will consider these and other comments they heard during the meeting. The November 20th list is posted through the RRG page of the RTO West website at http://www.rtoWest.com/RRG_PlatformInput.htm .

Additionally, to aid the platform group, RRG members were asked to send items for consideration to Chris Elliott, christowest@earthlink.net, by Wednesday, November 26 (and not later than December 1). This input also will be posted at the location listed in the previous paragraph.

Near-Term Work Plan

A near-term work plan was developed and noted during the RRG meeting; it is currently posted at http://www.rtoWest.com/RRG_Main.htm .

The near-term work plan describes tasks for the RRG and the platform group. During the first week of December, the platform group will consider the RRG identified gaps and areas that need further development, identify areas for further technical work, modify the proposal to provide more depth, and prepare suggestions for a common message about the proposal.

Next RRG Meeting on December 10 and 11, 2003

The RRG will consider the modified proposal at its next meeting and develop a work plan for subsequent work. Also, the RRG will be briefed on the Northeast Outage Report, and there will be a briefing on energy legislation, if the current energy bill passes Congress.

The next RRG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 11, from 8:00 to noon at a hotel near the Portland Airport.