

Brief Summary of RTO West RRG Meeting September 3 and 4, 2003

Introduction

This summary is intended to describe the major topics of discussion during the September 3 and 4, 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 September 3 and 4 Meeting

- A RTO West RRG meeting was held at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel on September 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and September 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Approximately 75 parties attended the RRG meeting, including approximately 28 designated RRG representatives. Five state representatives attended and four state representatives listened by phone.
- The August 20 and 21 RRG meeting was summarized.
 - 1) On August 20, the RRG talked about needs and desires for planning and expansion and came up with two basic options. The RRG also discussed a group of problems and opportunities related to transmission service and congestion management and related sub-issues, and suggested three basic variant approaches for this group.
 - 2) On August 21, the RRG came up with an issue group list to be covered on September 3 and affirmed that on September 4 they would identify the options for which descriptions would be written up.
- On September 3, the RRG discussed the issue groups of long-term access, control area functions, cost recovery. The RRG moved rate pancaking issues to the cost recovery category and transactional pancaking issues to the short-term access sub-category. Regional needs and desired characteristics for each group were noted.
- On September 4, the RRG further delineated and defined the three options that would be written up in more detailed, cohesive proposals. Participants self-selected into "idea groups" to develop the three options – "Coordination-Based", "Independent Administrator", and "Stage 2 Reloaded."

Discussion of Remaining Major Issue Groups

- Four major issue groups were not covered at the August 20-21 meeting and were carried over to September 3 – long-term access; issues related to control area functions including ancillary services and losses; pancaked transmission rates and transactional pancaking; and cost recovery issues.
- The RRG discussed these areas using a template proposed by the Coordinating Team to note issues related to subgroups of problems and opportunities and identified regional needs and desired characteristics and potential goals.

- The pancaking issues were moved, with related rate pancaking issues included in the cost recovery list and transactional pancaking issues included with short-term access. Three papers about pancaked rates were distributed and posted.
- The “raw” notes taken on September 3 in the template, along with a synthesis of information about issues discussed on August 20-21, were posted on the RTO West website and distributed to the RRG for their reference during the September 4 discussion about identifying option packages.

Identification and Definition of Option Packages

- The RRG discussed options to be written up in more detail, and spent some time adding more definition to what each option package means. The agreed-on options, with clarifications, that idea groups will work on are:
 1. “Coordination-Based” – adapting/improving from current structures
 - Could be a combination of existing and new entities and contracts
 - Continue to operate basically from the contract path approach (at least initially)
 2. “Independent Administrator”
 - Single umbrella entity
 - Has some decision-making authority
 - Not a system operator
 3. “Stage 2 Reloaded”
- Participants self-selected and joined idea groups. Basic grounds rules are: working on a proposal does not constitute endorsing the proposal; and participants will make “best model” contributions.
- Each group met briefly to organize and get work underway. The Coordinating Team will compile email lists for circulating materials, and each group will copy its correspondence to the other two groups. Groups will indicate which option they are working on in the subject line of the email correspondence.

Schedule of RRG Meetings and Work Activity for September 10 through September 23, 2003

Wednesday, September, 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, September, 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – idea group work sessions to develop packages; work groups meet separately with brief organizational plenary sessions.

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

Monday, September 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Tuesday, September 23 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – 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)