

**Conference Call Notes**  
**Seams Steering Group – Western Interconnection**  
**December 20, 2001**

**Common Systems Interface Committee (CSIC)**

The three subgroups under CSIC, namely Communications, Backup Control Centers and OASIS, will be finalizing their initial reports at the January 8, 2002, CSIC meeting. These reports, including recommendations and alternatives, will then be forwarded to SSG-WI. CSIC will propose an overall general implementation plan and schedule for the Western Interconnection. They will also propose pre-specification simulations of the RTO's operational and marketing processes. SSG-WI indicated that timing of the simulation would need more discussion. Timing should consider the status of the RTO's state and FERC approval processes. CSIC's work will be discussed further at the next SSG-WI meeting.

**FERC December 19<sup>th</sup> Orders**

SSG-WI reviewed the December 19, 2001 FERC Orders and the FERC staff's "Concept Discussion Paper for an Electric Industry Transmission and Market Rule" which is intended to facilitate discussion on RTO policy regarding standard market design.. FERC plans to hold industry workshops in January and February, issue a market design NOPR in March 2002, hold additional workshops in April and May and issue a Rule Making in July 2002. It was suggested that the three RTOs should continue their present development course. The RTOs should inform FERC what they consider is workable in the West, consistent with FERC's objectives. SSG-WI will develop a paper identifying how the current RTO proposals line up with the principles in the FERC Concept Paper.

**Transmission Expansion Planning**

SSG-WI discussed the transmission planning function and the views of state and FERC as expressed at the November CREPC meeting. Until the RTOs become operational, it was suggested that SSG-WI might take the lead and play a more active role in regional transmission expansion planning. It was also indicated that SSG-WI's planning role needs to be coordinated with WECC to assure there is no duplication. The newly formed Planning WG was asked to develop a set of proposed Principles for this activity and the relationship to WECC, for discussion at the next SSG-WI meeting.

**Market Monitoring**

The Market Monitoring WG has discussed a number of institutional, structural and timing issues that will be presented and discussed with SSG-WI at its January 16 meeting. An umbrella organization was discussed as one option for providing management and the fiscal needs of a Market Monitoring Unit. SSG-WI asked that the MMWG continue to explore options and discuss them at the next SSG-WI meeting.

**Congestion Management**

SSG-WI discussed the work of the WMIC CM WG and its plan to discuss the WG's activities at the January 9, 2002 WMIC meeting. SSG-WI suggested that rather than

focus on issues which may cause seams problems, an alternate approach might be to define the attributes of a common congestion management model. SSG-WI asked that WMIC identify the components of a common core congestion management model, discuss this at their January 9 meeting and provide the results to SSG-WI.