

**PLWG Meeting February 29, 2012**

Initiator	<u>Agenda Item No. 7.a</u>	Action required from PLWG
<p>Operations Working Group</p> <p>Reference posted documents:            1) season_references_in_protocols_and_guides.xls.</p>	<p>At the January OWG meeting attendees from the QSE, Planning and Resource segments voiced concerns about revision requests <b>NOGRR086 Clarification of Seasonal Unit Capability Testing Requirements</b> and <b>NPRR436 Clarify the Use of the Defined Term Season and Its Derivatives</b>. The sentiment expressed seemed to be that changing the seasons starting and ending dates might result in unintended consequences with a negative effect on various processes, testing and reporting requirements. In addition, it has come to my attention that capitalizing the word season throughout the Protocols may have similar results. This could mean that the Operating Guides definition of the seasons (Summer (May 15 – September 15) Fall (September 16 – November 30) Winter (December 1 – February 28) Spring (March 1 – May 14)) is being applied to other processes than just generation testing requirements.</p> <p>Off line one commenter expressed concern that Load Ratio Shares as the result of 4-CP calculations may change as a result of removing the Operating Guides definition of the seasons since the Protocol definition of summer only includes June, July and August. They felt that removing September 1-15 from the calculations would result in Load Ratio Shares that were less than accurate. However, as I read Section 9 of the Protocols, it specifically states that 4-CP is defined as <i>“the average Settlement Interval coincidental MW peak occurring during the months of June, July, August, and September.”</i> This comment just seemed to emphasize the extent of the misunderstanding.</p> <p>The question I have to ask would be, is the definition of the seasons being applied randomly throughout the Protocols, Operating Guides, and other places? Currently, in the Operating Guides and Protocols alone there are three different definitions of the seasons, not including the definitions in the Planning Guides and the SSWG Procedure Manual. We may discover that the definition of the seasons is simply left up to the reader to determine which definition, Guides or Protocols, they decide is valid. Since many references are not capitalized, it does leave the question opened to interpretation. Towards resolving this issue, I copied all the references to the seasons found in the Guides and Protocols and dropped them into a spreadsheet (separate tabs at the bottom). Then, out to the right of each reference I provided columns for the reader to mark if they felt that the reference was using the Guides definition, the Protocols definition, or some other definition. I thought this might help uncover potential unrealized consequences of removing the definition of the seasons in the Guides and capitalizing the seasons in the Protocols. So I offer this spreadsheet to be used for that purpose. When we have a clear picture of which definition applies to each reference we will undoubtedly expose the consequences of making the change. I don’t want to simply push this issue up to ROS without trying to resolve it.</p>	<p>Consensus on Luminant comments below so that NOGRR 086and NPRR 436 can move forward.</p>
<b>Comments:</b>		
1. Luminant	<p>...using the standard 3 month definitions for Season shown in the Protocols would be appropriate for each of the references. I believe that handling the 4CP and planning issues as one-off's with their own unique definitions would be the appropriate way to handle it. We could actually capitalize the word Season in all of these references in the Protocols and Op Guides to alleviate the confusion.</p>	
2. PLWG		

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