OPSTF Report to ROS

The OPSTF met on Wednesday, January 16 at the ERCOT Met Center offices in Austin. The task force reviewed the attached Issues List Matrix which provides the status of each sub-issue associated with the thirteen main issues. The Matrix is attached for ROS member review and will be open for questions or comments at the February 14 ROS meeting.

At the March ROS meeting, the OPSTF will present a proposal to revise the ERCOT Planning Guides regarding Issue 4 (c).

At the February 14 ROS meeting, the OPSTF will be asking ROS to endorse the following recommendations: 1) three “Best Practice” techniques for Transmission Planners, 2) Action Items for three standing Working Groups that report to ROS, and 3) two process changes for the ERCOT 5-year Plan process.

These recommendations are stated in detail on the following pages.

Best Practices

Issue 2: Ensure that Real-Time Operations, Outage Planning and Transmission Planning processes are aligned in the use of operating generic transmission limits.

OSPTF Recommended best practice: Generic transmission limits (GTLs) reflect market based limits for studies that are economic in nature. Transmission planners need to respect SOLs & IROLs for reliability studies, but if studying congestion the lower GTL limits should be used.

Issue 5 (b): Establish a basis for load variations, including area seasonal variations

OPSTF Recommended best practice: For small local areas and load pockets transmission planners should model the undiversified load level as a reasonable load variation. For regional or weather zone load variations, planners should model a reasonable high load forecast, such as a 90th percentile load forecast.

Issue 9: Consideration of transmission maintenance outages in planning studies

OPSTF Recommended best practice: Transmission planners should use input from Operators and planning software such as the new N-1-1 PSS/E scanning feature to identify difficult planned outages that require study before outage requests are submitted.

Action Items

Issue 6: Use of double circuit contingencies to develop operating limits – ERCOT Operations conservatively considers all double circuit contingencies. Evaluate appropriate use of double circuit contingencies.

OPSTF discussed a proposal that a DCKT outage be considered only if it caused a reliability problem. The 'push-back' was that it is hard for the market to model contingencies that are sometimes run and sometimes not. ERCOT commented that this would be complex, burdensome and require new tools for System Operations. OPSTF recommends that ROS direct OWG to modify the Operating Guides language (pg. 1-15) to better reflect the actual practice.

Issue 12 (a): Model generator-step-up transformer voltage regulation at the actual reference point (typically the generator bus).

Transmission planners generally model regulation at the hi-side POI as required by the Protocols and Stability Studies. But real-world generation sometimes regulates the low-side with the result that during contingencies actual gen voltage support is less than what planners see in their models. The RARF contains a field that designates where the location of the voltage regulation is (on high or low side). OPSTF recommends that ROS direct DWG to look into this issue with respect to operations and planning and make recommendations to ROS.

Issue 12 (c): Model reactive loads accurately as seen from the transmission system.

ALDR instructions require that pf data be taken where the meter is located. OPSTF recommends that ROS direct the SSWG to clarify the need to compensate for transformer losses when modeling loads on the high side of the transformer of 60kV or above. This should result in clarifying section 4.2 of the SSWG Procedural Manual.

ERCOT 5-Year Plan Process Changes

Issue 3 (a ): Consistent publication date for the 5-Year Transmission Plan

OPSTF recommends that ROS direct the PLWG to create a PGRR that establishes a December 31 deadline for the 5-year Regional Transmission Plan.

Issue 3 (b): Consideration of incomplete Five Year Transmission Plan reliability projects in seasonal RAP/MP/SPS development.

OPSTF recommends that ROS ask ERCOT System Planning to make internal process changes to seek Transmission Service Providers (TSP) RAP/MP/SPS development and formalize this in the 5-Yr Plan process.