**Regional Planning Group**

**Meeting Notes**

**August 22, 2017**

**Misc. Updates**

Jeff Billo

* Small Organization Change: Resource Integration is a new group at ERCOT led by Jay Teixeira. This group is the one spot for generation interconnection. All communication will go through Jay going forward. The RPG Contact List has been updated.
* Tomorrow’s PLWG we will discuss NPRR837 and PGRR059.
* We have had questions about Wind Power Curves, obtained by AWS. Benchmark analysis shows that the curves are good on an annual basis. We feel comfortable using them, but we are still looking for ways to improve.
  + Q: (Bill Bojorquez, Sharyland): Are you considering the fact that in real time you may have curtailments? Therefore, you will have the wind basically not show up?
  + A: (Jeff Billo, ERCOT): Our assumption is the Current Operating Plan data would not have curtailment within it.
* Brad Schwarz, Sharyland updated RPG on the panhandle project. To aid in relieving congestion, Sharyland has a project approved where we are adding a second circuit around our panhandle loop and adding two synchronous condensers. First condenser has an in-service date is mid-February 2018. The second condenser has an in-service date of mid-April 2018. The second circuit project will be done in March of 2018.

**2018 LTSA Scenario Development**

Doug Murray gave an update on the 2018 LTSA Schedule.

Q: (Cyrus Reed, Sierra Club): How do you want to receive feedback?

A: (Doug Murray, ERCOT): Send an email with comments to Sandeep Borkar or myself.  
Q: (Tom Smith, Public Citizen): In your current trends scenario, are you planning on using the last version of the LTSA as your starting point?

A: (Doug Murray, ERCOT): We would not start from the last version of the LTSA. We will build a new current trends model.

**Load Forecast Review Process**

Sandeep Borkar and Calvin Opheim presented on the Load Forecast Review Process, showing all of ERCOTs new load reviewing responsibilities from PGRR042. They gave a summary of evolution of the process and required documentation. Also, they gave an additional review of load delivery points.

Q: (Clayton Greer, Morgan Stanley): Is ERCOT coming up with a screening list that the TSPs will have to follow up on?

A: (Calvin Opheim, ERCOT): There is a lot going on behind the scenes, but you would get a list that shows they signed up for a load level that they are nowhere near [if that is the case].

**2018 Q1 Quarterly Stability Assessment**

Sun Wook Kang introduced the first Quarterly Stability Assessment.

Q: (Cyrus Reed, Sierra Club): One of the generators in your list was a 30 MW battery. Do you treat batteries any different?

A: (Sun Wook Kang, ERCOT): We treat them the same as other generators.

Q: (NRG): How does this process work with a repowering project?

A (Sun Wook Kang, ERCOT): Our Planning Guide requires repowering projects to go through the GINR process. They have to go through the Quarterly Stability Assessment.

**Panhandle Detailed Study Phase 2 Scope**

John Schmall presented on the Evaluation of Low System Strength of the Transmission Grid.

Q: (Walter Reid, Wind Coalition): There was some possibility that you could do some things by tuning the voltage regulating equipment, but that you don’t have models for everyone. Are you going to investigate improvements doing that?

A: (John Schmall, ERCOT): We can do something. It does become a challenge to reach a definitive conclusion if we have to make assumptions on how the controllers perform. This is new for the industry and the PSCAD model.

Q: (Walter Reid, Wind Coalition): What effort will you be making to update that evaluation?

A: (Fred Huang, ERCOT): The focus of the study is to apply the model provided by resource entities. With the design, and given we have new projects in this region, we will try to evaluate the increase capacity compared to the previous one. Along the way, we may consider the potential of the different controllers, but it is not a focus.

**Weather Scenarios & Transmission Outages in Economic Analysis**

Sandeep Borkar presented on the Economic Transmission Planning Practices.

Q: (Charlie DeWitt, LCRA): Are you going to run this analysis on all Tier 1 RPG projects or only those that are being evaluated as an economic projects?

A: (Sandeep Borkar, ERCOT): Primarily only on economic projects, but every project will have its own scope.

**Bearkat Area Project**

WETT presented on the Bearkat Area Transmission Improvements Project. (Mehriar Tabrizi, DNV GL)

Q: (Dan Jones, ERCOT): (On Slide 11) There is economic differential analysis which is one case compared to another case, it appears there is a base case?

A: (WETT): When we started the RAS, we thought we were going to go down a different path and then we submitted the project based on reliability criteria not economic criteria. The economic criteria is just additional support. You can figure the differences once we submit the RAS application.

**South Plains Project Scope Update**

Ping Yan gave an update on the study scope of ERCOT’s Independent Review of the South Plains

Project.

Q: (Bryan Sams, NRG): Is there a possibility of having a sensitivity analysis run on gas price here? Looking at the forward curve for 2020-2022. These prices are 40-60% higher than what we are seeing now.

A: (Jeff Billo, ERCOT): When you get out that far, there is only 2 or 3 trades so the futures price is not that reliable. We would be open to running some sensitivities. If you wanted to look at some other data we would be receptive to those comments.

**Freeport Master Plan Project Update**

Ramya Nagarajan gave an update on ERCOT’s Independent Review of the Freeport Master Plan Project, a Tier One Project.

No questions.

**Northeast Denton County & Celina/Prosper Project Scope**

Ying Li presented on the study scope of ERCOT’s Independent Review of the Northeast Denton County & Celina/Prosper Project.

No questions.