**Regional Planning Group Meeting**

**Meeting Notes**

**November 12, 2019**

**Misc. Updates**

* John Bernecker stated he has received several requests from market participants to post congestion rent values from economic studies instead of color coded representations of the congestion rent severity, and before they are posted, ERCOT wanted to check for any comments or concerns.

Q: Are the congestion rents based on your study?

A: (John Bernecker, ERCOT): Yes, that is what we are wanting to post.

* Jeff Billo updated the group that the format of the constraints and needs report is changing from a Word Document to PowerPoint.
* Jeff Billo gave a heads up that ERCOT has been working with the Commission on ways to improve processes on serving the load growth in the Permian Basin.
* There will likely be a December RPG Meeting.
* The 2020 RPG Schedule is now out. PLWG is typically going to be the day before or after RPG. In January, RPG and PLWG are on the same date.

**Corpus North Shore Project Overview**

Brad Myers, AEP, presented on the Corpus North Shore Project. Myers showed the study region, reviewed three upgrade options and gave AEP’s recommendation.

Q: (Bryan Sams, Calpine): Is the SSWG case for the AEP system and not ERCOT? Summer peak?

A: (Brad Myers, AEP): It is the entire ERCOT system, SSWG case.

Q: (Bill Barnes, NRG): Thank you for all the detail on the actual load. Where did you model the new load?

A: (Brad Myers, AEP): Locally near Resnik.

**Corpus North Shore Project IR Scope**

Ben Richardson gave an update on ERCOT’s Independent Review of the Corpus North Shore Project. This is a Tier 1 project that is estimated to cost $260 million.

Q: (Clayton Greer, Morgan Stanley): Are you going to do a case for a winter profile?

A: (Ben Richardson, ERCOT): We will be looking at modeling off season peak conditions.

A: (Sun Wook Kang, ERCOT): For off peak load conditions, our plan is to review the historical data of the load in the area such as spring or fall seasons to adjust the load level in the summer peak study case. We will also review the winter season.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley IR**

Moinul Islam provided an update on ERCOT’s Independent Review of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Project. He gave insight on the background on the project, shared the results of the study and presented the next steps. ERCOT will finalize the analysis by December 2019.

Q: (Karan Joshi, Pattern): On slide 13, you have mentioned that Delsol to Frontera is a place holder. Can you clarify?

A: (Muhammad Khan, ERCOT): As Moinul mentioned, we see the need for a reliability project to serve native Valley load even without LNG after 2026. When LNG shows up the need shifts up. We presented earlier this year that we tested several options including reactive devices and Del Sol to Frontera line was chosen as a placeholder to address the reliability issues in the West Valley.

Q: How did you model DC Tie exports?

A: (Moinul Islam, ERCOT): We noticed thermal overloads with 405 MW LNG load. As part of the remedial action, the Railroad DC tie (300 MW export) was turned off in the case study. The dispatch of the two other DC ties in the area (Laredo and Eagle Pass) remained same as in the RTP case.

Q: (Clayton Greer, Morgan Stanley): On the 138 kV upgrade, are these line rebuilds? What is the nature of those lines?

A: (Sun Wook Kang, ERCOT): They are likely either rebuilds or combinations of reconductor and rebuild. We evaluated N-1-1 for Options 1 through 5 to understand which option is better for planned maintenance or construction outage conditions.

**Far West Texas Projects Update**

Various TSPs gave project updates on Far West Texas.

Brent Kawakami, Oncor, discussed Oncor’s Far West projects. He reviewed 2019 and 2020 Planned Projects and Transmission Improvements.

Q: (Clayton Greer, Morgan Stanley): Can we get a presentation on the outages that will be needed for all of this construction?

A: (Martha Henson, Oncor): We will continue to go through with the existing outage schedule that everyone is familiar with.

Mina Turner, AEP, reviewed 2019 and 2020 Planned Projects.

Q: (Bill Barnes, NRG): The Woodward update that you have on slide 2, is that energized yet?

A: (Mina Turner, AEP): Yes, it just got energized.

Mac Sauls, LCRA, reviewed key milestones and gave a project status update.

No questions.

**Delaware Basin Study**

Ying Li gave an update on the Delaware Basin Study. Li shared the background, motivation and purpose of the Delaware Basin Study. The study’s progress, assumptions, methodology and results were also shared. The Delaware Basin Study is planned to be complete in December 2019.

Q: (Melissa Brinson, Exxon Mobil): Did your cost estimates include the upgrades?

A: (Ying Li, ERCOT): Yes.

Q: (Bryan Sams, Calpine): How are you going to evaluate competing projects to solve the same reliability need?

A: (Jeff Billo, ERCOT): Anytime we are looking at projects and we have multiple project options, there are a number of factors we consider. We do not look at the projects in terms of TSPs competing.

**2019 RTP**

Ping Yan gave a status update on the 2019 Regional Transmission Plan. Yan reviewed noteworthy 2019 RTP projects and the 2019 RTP sensitivity analysis.

No questions.

**2020 LTSA**

John Bernecker presented a quick update on scenario development. The four scenarios, in addition to Current trends, include High Battery Energy Storage, High Industrial Lead, Existing Transmission Constraints and Renewable Mandate.

Q: (Clayton Greer, Morgan Stanley, referring to High BESS): How would the batteries be dispatched?

A: (John Bernecker, ERCOT): We haven’t definitively determined this yet, and are open to suggestions. If we are focusing on grid scale, we would have to think about price behavior. It is hard to capture all of the ancillary service behavior in the planning models.