January 19, 2021 RPG Meeting Notes

**Miscellaneous Updates**

* Fred Huang encouraged everyone to login to the WebEx with their full name and company in the future. Participants will be muted on entry and need to remain muted when not speaking. Also, participants should utilize the chat feature to queue for comments or questions.
* In 2021 RPG and PLWG are scheduled on the same day. After RPG, there will be a short break and then PLWG will begin using the same WebEx information as RPG.
* Fred Huang gave an update on the West Texas Export Study. ERCOT is close to complete the study case updates. ERCOT will provide updates at the future RPG meetings.
* ERCOT will host a Transmission Workshop: Technologies to Improve Power Transfer Capability on February 23. Information can be found available at <http://www.ercot.com/calendar/2021/2/23/219574>
* John Bernecker spoke on the 2022 LTSA/scenario development. There are workshops to come; suggestions for speakers or topics are welcome.
* Ping Yan stated that the 2021 RTP scope has been posted to today’s RPG Meeting page. Please send any comments to Ping Yan and John Bernecker.

**2021 RTP Load Review**

Ping Yan (ERCOT) presented the preliminary 2021 RTP Load Review. Preliminary start cases with the proposed load levels will be posted on MIS Secure Area (no case conditioning steps will be applied).

Ken Donohoo (EPE): How was Lubbock Power & Light load addition in 2020 handled as part of the forecast?

Ping Yan (ERCOT): for the Lubbock load, because we do not have any historical data. We processed the Lubbock load forecast separately by comparing the Lubbock forecast in SSWG cases and the ERCOT Lubbock load forecast.

Kevin Hanson (National Grid): Is the Permian Basin load forecast study impact going to be included in the LTSA?

John Bernecker (ERCOT): We are at the very beginning, just starting to think about scenario development.

Bill Barnes (NRG): IHS Permian load forecast, is that going to be included in the RTP?

Ping Yan (ERCOT): This is to be determined. If it will happen, it will be in the Load Review Process.

**RPG Submittal Review and Discussion – Outages and Load Confirmation**

Sun Wook Kang (ERCOT) presented RPG Submittal Review and Expectations on construction outage and new confirmed load. ERCOT is requesting stakeholder feedback on whether we are appropriately considering the impact of outages that may be required for the implementation of transmission improvements.

Bill Barnes (NRG): This isn’t a new process, correct?

Sun Wook Kang (ERCOT): That is correct.

Kevin Hanson (National Grid): Is the IMMs proposed penalty curve changes going to be included in the Planning process?

John Bernecker (ERCOT): For those of us that tuned into CMWG, that is still up in the air. It is a little premature to talk about something that has not been approved in the planning process.

Wesley Woitt (CenterPoint): My understanding is that an RPG project with non-confirmed load can still be submitted for IR (independent review). Am I right or are you proposing to change the process?

Sun Wook Kang (ERCOT): Your understanding is correct. The IA and financial commitment will be needed to get the endorsement from ERCOT. If we do not have those documents, we can conduct an independent review, but we will not be able to endorse a project.

**Permian Basin Load Interconnection Study Scope**

Ying Li (ERCOT) provided an update on the Permian Basin Load Interconnection Study Scope. The purpose of the study is to identify local transmission upgrades that may be necessary to connect potential local oil and gas loads in the Permian Basin Area.

Bill Barnes (NRG): Slide 5, bottom bullet, is that a direct comparison to Far West Load zone?

Ying Li (ERCOT): This load includes most of the Far West Weather Zone plus the 5 counties in the West Weather Zone.

Mina Turner (Oncor): Depending on what the load levels, are you going to add those upgrades?

Ying Li (ERCOT): Yes, depending on the load levels, ERCOT may model the long lead time transmission upgrades identified in the 2019 Delaware Basin Load Integration Study.

**Levelized Production Cost Savings Calculation**

John Bernecker (ERCOT) presented on the Levelized Production Cost Savings Calculation.

Eric Goff: What do you use for the assumed inflation rate?

John Bernecker (ERCOT): We think about inflation on an annual basis. We do think about what is the right inflation rate to assume.

Kaustubh Deshmukh: Are the values also going to be interpolated between the study years, and extrapolated for a fixed number of years beyond the last year of study to capture the "true" levelized production cost savings, consistent with the methodology used by other ISO/RTO's?

John Bernecker (ERCOT): At this point, we have not done any interpolation.

Bryan Sams (Calpine): Are you planning on filing a PGRR to memorialize this methodology?

John Bernecker (ERCOT): There is no plan for a PGRR. This is a description of current practice.

Rodica Donaldson: has ERCOT considered looking at the value of transmission retroactively?

John Bernecker (ERCOT): We have not done that sort of retroactive economic analysis. However, we do periodically look at reliability projects retroactively.

Kevin Hanson: Are you looking at more historic weather years data (load, wind, and solar) for looking at impacts?

John Bernecker (ERCOT): We generally identify a base weather year, and then a high sensitivity and a low sensitivity weather year.