

RC Transition Coordination Group

RC Customer Update Report

December 2018

The RC Transition Coordination Group (RCTCG) will be issuing periodic update reports on an approximately monthly basis. This report covers activities through the month of December 2018.

General

1. The RCTCG continues its coordination efforts including:
 - a. Providing Eric Whitley to assist with coordinating the RC-RC Coordination Group meetings, including maintaining the agenda, minutes, decision log, and action item lists.
 - b. Holding weekly RCTCG update conference calls.
 - c. Coordinating with the RC customer oversight groups as needed, primarily for CAISO and SPP.
2. The RCTCG has continued its outreach and communication efforts, including:
 - a. Update at WECC Member Advisory Committee – 12/4/18

Track 1: RC-RC Transition

1. The RCTCG continues to participate in the RC-RC Coordination group meetings, which are now being held twice a month. Some of the current high points from the meetings include:
 - a. **Enhanced Curtailment Calculator (ECC):** CAISO and Peak have agreed upon the initial contract division with OATI.
 - b. **Western Interchange Tool (WIT):** During the latest RC-RC discussions, it was agreed that Peak would continue to administer the WIT contract until it can be transitioned in 2019. CAISO has offered to take on that administration for WIT for the entire interconnection or to investigate what it would take for each RC to be co-administrators and segment the BA data accordingly. SPP would prefer to administer data for its members. AESO and BCH are not opposed to having CAISO be the administrator. OATI has provided a one-time cost estimate to allow administration of data by multiple RCs. CAISO and SPP need to discuss further on approach. Part of this effort includes development of a “governance” process for multiple party controls over this and other tools.
 - c. **Western Interconnection System Model (WSM):** Preliminary decision is to have Peak maintain WSM for use in its EMS and ECC for

2019. During 4th Qtr. 2019 CAISO will transition to maintain and share the Western Interconnection EMS Network Model with the other RCs, which will each build their own model to be rolled up to the WSM.

- d. **UDSA/WIDSA:** CAISO and SPP are in detailed discussions to determine how to allow SPP to also use the WIDSA for its eastern members. The issue is what data needs to be shared and how will SPP ensure that data is not shared beyond the TOPs in the eastern part of their footprint.
 - e. **Sharing RAS data and GIS data (lat./long):** Peak has issued a letter to all UDSA signatories informing them of Peak's intent to share RAS and GIS data with the new RCs. Peak is proceeding with sharing the data.
 - f. **Transfer of Peak's historical data:** Peak has described the current data that is stored at Peak and a need to decide where this historical data will reside in the future. It was noted that PNNL has expressed an interest in serving as a repository / hub for the historical data that entities can use. The RCs will need to decide in the near future the value of this data and how they wish to handle this issue. Current thinking is to establish a temporary repository for the data and to address the details of this issue after RC transitions in 2019.
 - g. **RC – RC Sub-groups:** The RC-RC Coordination Group has established ~8 sub-groups to address specific technical issues. The RC-RC Coordination Group is working to formalize the scope and due dates for action items assigned to these sub-groups.
 - h. **Seams Issues:** It is recognized that both CAISO and SPP have seams working groups in place. The recommendation is to facilitate a joint meeting of these seams working groups along with WECC to ensure that the multiple seams issues are identified and addressed.
 - i. **Reserve Sharing Groups:** Due to recent changes in RSG membership creating better collaboration/coordination among the RCs may be needed. Currently looking at creating a sub-group with RSG participation to evaluate this issue.
2. **Multiple cutover dates:** Currently there are four cutover dates identified in 2019 for transition from Peak to CAISO/SPP/BCH:
- i. CAISO Phase 1(CA footprint): 7/1/19
 - ii. BCH: 9/2/19
 - iii. CAISO Phase 2 (remaining footprint): 11/1/19
 - iv. SPP: 12/3/19

This has raised a potential reliability concern with multiple seams transitions and the added work for both the regulators and RCs of multiple NERC/WECC re-certifications. The RCTCG realizes that the RC providers cannot be asked to go-live before they are ready and we support earlier than later cutover dates. However, we remain concerned that the multiple transitions could be a risk to reliable operations if any issues get missed in a transition.

Track 2: Peak Wind Down Effort

1. Peak management has provided notice to all Peak employees as to their separation date and whether they will be offered retention. All employees have been offered a severance and critical employees needed to maintain RC operations have been offered a retention bonus. Approximately 100 employees have been identified as critical. The initial round of planned staff reductions is January 7-8, 2019. The announcement of dates and severance/retention status appears to have helped stabilize staffing levels, currently at ~146.
2. The RCTCG reviewed the detailed Wind Down Plan with Peak management on December 6. Peak has developed a detailed plan that includes 15 tracks of issues to manage. They have established an Executive Sponsor (Peak CEO), a Program Manager, two Project Managers, and leads for each of the 15 Wind Down tracks. Based upon our review, the RCTCG feels comfortable that Peak has established a robust Wind Down Plan and project management structure. Peak will be reporting out on staffing, budget, and key milestones on a routine, periodic basis.
3. The RCTCG is working with Peak to develop an assistance agreement whereby entities can loan staff to Peak to backfill vacancies in critical positions. A draft of the assistance agreement is in review and should be available to parties with qualified personnel for execution by early to mid-February. Peak has also identified other approaches to provide backup for critical staff, such as use of contractors and temporary rehire of retirees.

Upcoming Activities

1. Continued discussions with the RC-RC group, which includes NERC and WECC, to develop and manage the transition issues list and plan.
2. Continued discussions with Peak regarding the Wind Down plan and communicating status back to the Funding Parties. (NOTE: Effective in January 2019 Peak has initiated the issuance of a monthly Bulletin to inform Peak Funding Parties, Members, and Stakeholders on the RC transition and Peak Wind Down activities. These Bulletins can be found at the Peak website: www.peakrc.com.)
3. Continued communications efforts as needed. Currently, the RCTCG has been requested to participate in:
 - a. WECC RC Forum Update – 1/24/19
 - b. Peak MAC meeting – 2/5/19
 - c. WEIL meeting – 2/15/19
 - d. WECC Operating Committee meeting – 2/20/19
4. At the request of WECC, the RCTCG is developing a “dashboard” that can be used to track the status of the RC transition effort. The goal is to have this ready for initial issue by the end of January.