

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: David Whiteley

d.a.whiteley@att.net

314-753-6200

EIPC Planning Authorities Elect Executive Committee Officers, Announce New Website

The electric system Planning Authorities that have formed the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative (EIPC) today announced the election of Stephen G. Whitley, President & CEO of the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), to chair their Executive Committee. Tim Ponseti, Vice President, System Planning for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), was elected to serve as vice-chairman of the EIPC Executive Committee.

The Eastern Interconnection includes electric systems serving most of the United States and Canada from the Great Plains to the Atlantic coast. The 23 Planning Authorities that have signed the EIPC agreement make up about 95 percent of the peak load of the Eastern Interconnection.

The EIPC is a pioneer, grass-roots effort among Eastern Interconnection Planning Authorities to perform interconnection-wide transmission analysis. The effort will aggregate the regional transmission plans of the entire Eastern Interconnection to identify potential opportunities for efficiencies between regions. This interconnection-wide analysis also will become the reference case for modeling alternative grid expansions based upon scenarios guided by stakeholder input. A multi-constituency stakeholder steering committee will be established to aid state and provincial participants and other stakeholders in assessing future transmission options and possible impacts of policy decisions.

The Executive Committee will provide strategic leadership to continue the development of the planning collaborative and direct the joint participation of the Planning Authorities in the EIPC. The terms of the chairman and vice-chairman will run through the end of 2010.

“The collective work of the Eastern Interconnection Planning Authorities to develop an open and transparent process for conducting transmission analyses with an interconnection-wide

scope has been truly exciting,” said Stephen G. Whitley. “I look forward to the opportunity to help lead this effort.”

In the past week, the EIPC completed two introductory stakeholder webinars as first steps in developing a robust stakeholder process that is an integral part of the EIPC concept.

“We are also pleased to announce the launch of a website for the EIPC – eipconline.com,” said Tim Ponseti. While still under construction, the website provides a resource for stakeholders to use to obtain EIPC documents, view a schedule of upcoming events, and register for future notifications.

Whitley is a veteran of the energy industry with extensive experience in bulk power system planning and operations. He became NYISO President & CEO in July 2008, after serving for seven years as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of ISO New England (ISO-NE). In New England, he led the establishment of a regional planning process which resulted in the construction of new Extra-High Voltage (EHV) transmission in all six New England states and a new EHV interconnection between Maine and New Brunswick. Prior to his tenure at ISO-NE, he completed a 30-year career with TVA where he last served as General Manager, Electric System Operations, of the Transmission Power Supply Group.

Ponseti is currently the Vice President of System Planning for TVA. In this role, he is responsible for both Generation Resource Planning and Transmission Planning at TVA. Ponseti began his career in 1985 with Louisiana Power & Light Co, a subsidiary of Entergy. Over the next 18 years, Ponseti held a variety of positions in Entergy’s operations, planning, and customer service departments. From 1997–2003 he served as the site manager for Entergy’s System Operations Center. He joined TVA in 2003 as the General Manager of Transmission Policy, and later held a variety of senior positions in both transmission operations and planning before becoming the VP of System Planning in 2008. Over the past 12 years, Ponseti has served on numerous SERC Reliability Corporation and North American Electric Reliability Corporation committees, including chair of the SERC Engineering Committee from 2006-2008.

The Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative is a pioneer, grass-roots effort being developed and led by 23 Planning Authorities to conduct transmission analyses at the interconnection level. Integral to the Collaborative approach is the roll-up and analysis of existing regionally developed plans. Learn more at eipconline.com.