

To: Stakeholder Steering Committee  
From: David Whiteley  
Re: Revitalization of SSC for EIPC Gas-Electric System Interface Study  
Date: June 7, 2013

Dear SSC Member –

I am reaching out to you as a member of the Stakeholder Steering Committee (SSC) formed in 2010 as part of the Eastern Interconnection transmission analysis studies effort funded through a U. S. DOE grant. The Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative (EIPC) has received an extension from DOE to perform additional technical analyses of the natural gas interface with the electric transmission system. This is an extension of the existing interconnection studies grant OE-DOE0000343 and the Phase I & II work already completed. As with the earlier work, we would like this effort to involve the SSC. The purpose of this letter is to introduce the study to you, solicit your continued involvement in the SSC, announce an initial SSC webinar for the project, and distribute two documents in advance of the webinar which describe the study and how stakeholders will be involved.

#### Background

After reading just one paragraph, you are probably wondering “What happened? We were done with the study and held our last meeting in Charlotte last December.” Recall that the DOE grant was initiated to study electric transmission needs across stakeholder-specified futures. The EIPC worked with the SSC to define those futures and identify scenarios of interest. In Phase I, three scenarios were identified for detailed transmission analysis and in Phase II detailed transmission build-outs were created. The draft Phase II report was developed and sent to DOE in December, 2012. In reviewing the draft report, however, DOE identified a gap in the analysis and provided EIPC with technical guidance on addressing that gap.

#### DOE Technical Guidance

DOE recognized the progress Phase I and Phase II made in furthering interconnection-wide planning analysis while also noting changes in the natural gas market since the beginning of the study. In particular, discovery and development of new natural gas source locations and increased reliance on natural gas for future power generation raised a question about the interface between the two energy infrastructures. The technical guidance also acknowledged that the Phase II draft report identified part of this issue and stated, "it was assumed that new natural gas plants would be placed at the site of deactivated coal plants, reducing the need for

transmission; the locations and capacities of natural gas pipelines were not taken into account.” It recognized that with the current study information from Phase II it is unknown if sufficient natural gas infrastructure exists to support future increases in natural gas power production. As a result, DOE requested that EIPC begin to evaluate the interaction between the natural gas and electricity infrastructures from a planning perspective. EIPC agreed with DOE’s guidance and with performing additional analyses to supplement the Phase II draft report. DOE subsequently extended the end-date of the existing interconnection studies grant to provide for this additional analysis that is being called the “Gas-Electric System Interface Study”. As part of the study, EIPC will revisit the role and membership of the SSC to add gas industry expertise given the focus of the study.

### Reconvening the SSC

The EIPC would like to reconvene the SSC, initially via a webinar, to provide further information about the Gas-Electric System Interface Study, the scope of work to be completed, the process for stakeholder involvement, and initial study schedule. Two documents are attached to this email and are posted on the EIPC website ([http://www.eipconline.com/Gas-Electric\\_Documents.html](http://www.eipconline.com/Gas-Electric_Documents.html)) that will be discussed during this introductory webinar. These are the Statement of Work and Stakeholder Process documents for the Gas-Electric System Interface Study. The Statement of Work will be used to solicit bids from consultants with expertise in analysis of the natural gas system and its interactions with the electric transmission system. The Stakeholder Process document describes how the Planning Authority regional stakeholder processes will be engaged, together with the SSC, to add to the breadth of stakeholder input.

In thinking about how to get started, the EIPC balanced the advantages of polling for webinar dates versus the need to move the RFP process for the technical consultant along, and determined the best approach is simply to get started. So, two dates and times have been scheduled for the introductory webinars. Hopefully you will be able to participate in one or even both. The content will be identical during each webinar and is shown on the attached agenda. The webinars are scheduled for June 20, 2013 starting at 10:00am EDT and again on June 26, 2013 starting at 10:00am EDT. Each webinar is scheduled to last 2 hours in order to allow plenty of time to address your questions and hear your feedback on the study and initial comments on the attached documents.

## Summer Meeting

While recognizing the need to get the RFP started, the SSC will need to meet to discuss several important topics including how to add gas industry expertise to its ranks and how best to organize its input and comments on the study sensitivities and eventual output results. During the webinar we will need to discuss when a meeting can be held and if a formal poll is needed. Finally, the EIPC and DOE have asked Roy Thilly to continue as SSC Chairman, and we are delighted to report he has accepted. I personally appreciate Roy's willingness to help with this important study and I am confident you agree.

Thanks in advance for your participation on the upcoming webinars and on the Gas-Electric System Interface Study.

Sincerely,

David Whiteley  
EIPC Project Manager

cc: Sector Caucus Representatives  
EIPC Stakeholder Listserv