

The Three Interconnections Meeting: Facing the Future With Interconnection-wide Planning

February 6-7, 2013

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the US Department of Energy (US DOE), with:

- The Eastern Interconnection States Planning Council (EISPC)
- The Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative (EIPC)
- The Western Interconnection State-Provincial Steering Committee
- The Western Electricity Coordinating Council
- The PUC of Texas
- ERCOT

Renaissance Hotel
999 Ninth Street NW
Washington, D.C.

Purpose: to discuss the results of the planning processes conducted by the three interconnection-wide planning processes (both State-led policy efforts and the broad stakeholder-driven modeling efforts) to explain those projects and to explore how the tools, institutions, resources, and data generated by the interconnection-wide processes can help each of these regional grids confront the modernization needs facing the electricity sector.

Wednesday, February 6 2013

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions
1:15 – 2:30pm	Panel 1. The Electricity Sector’s Challenges and Opportunities, 2013 – 2030, and the Role of Interconnection-Level Organizations Today, the electricity industry’s leaders, regulators, and policy-makers face a sobering list of future challenges and uncertainties, both near term (5-10 years) and longer term (15+ years). Panelists will confront key technological changes and challenges, analyses related to core policy questions, development or adaptation of institutional capabilities, and opportunities for collaboration.
2: 30– 2:45 p.m.	Break

2:45 – 4:15 p.m.	<p>Setting the Stage: the three Interconnection-wide Planning Processes</p> <p>Principals from the Interconnection-wide planning processes will talk about what each organization and process created. A group of respondents will provide their feedback on future opportunities and options that would fill gaps.</p>
4:15 – 5:30 p.m.	<p>Common Challenges Part 1: Consideration of Major Wild Cards – Technology Advances and Carbon Regulation.</p> <p>A team of experts will discuss technology and policy unknowns, which decision-makers in the electricity sector will have to base their choices on without good information. Which technology advancements are likely to have the greatest impact? What game-changing technologies could frame the outcome? How should planning be done in the face of large uncertainties in technology costs and performance 10 and 20 years into the future? Will international markets determine new technologies for the United States? How will the blurring of the line between transmission and distribution affect the choices available to decision-makers?</p>
5:30 p.m.	Adjourn for the day

Thursday, February 7, 2013

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Recap of Day 1: key themes and issue areas
9:15 – 10:30 a.m.	<p>Challenges (Part 2) - Gas/electric interface</p> <p>Experts from the electric, gas, and regulatory arenas will explore the effect of large increases in gas-fired power deployment in electric transmission planning, the long-term infrastructure needs, and the implications for policy-makers.</p>
10:30–10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 –12:00 p.m.	<p>Common Challenges (Part 3) - Integration of variable generation</p> <p>A panel will explore technical and policy issues confronting planners as they build in intermittent resources. What is the outlook for the development of variable generation? How will this impact the grid? What are the benefits? Who do they (and should they) accrue to, and how? Do the benefits outweigh the costs?</p>
Noon-1:00 p.m.	Lunch, Keynote Speaker

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	<p>Interconnection-wide Planning and Regulation</p> <p>This session will explore the benefits of the new State-focused institutions, and the challenges of getting – and keeping - collaboration going (including new stresses post-Order 1000). How do the interconnection-wide processes help regulators adapt and deal with the changes coming towards the sector? What do the interconnection-wide processes mean for the federal-state relationship? How do State, regional, and interconnection-wide efforts interface with federal efforts? Have we broken down barriers? How? Are there new barriers? How are these to be overcome?</p>
2:30 p.m.	Meeting adjourns