

Mending the RTO seams

All the proposed RTOs in the West will deal with unique and complex issues. Boundaries between RTOs, or seams, are just one of them (refer to feature "RTO filing announced").

Western has a definite interest in resolving or reducing seams issues between RTOs because we operate an interconnected transmission system and market power in 15 Western states. "Our transmission system, project marketing areas, project resources and customer loads may be separated or fractured by the boundaries of these emerging

RTOs," said **Jim Charters**, DSW transmission system planning manager.

For example, CRSP customers could be divided between RTO West and Desert STAR. "The Boulder Canyon customers could be located in all three western RTOs in the future," Charters added. Western also serves loads in the MAPP area, which may include the MISO or Crescent Moon RTE and the area served by the Southwest Power Pool.

Ed Chang, SN project manager, explained, "Seams or boundaries can result in barriers or different business practices that could lead to inefficient power transactions."

Western's goal is to participate in dialogue among the RTOs, seek resolution to seams issues, coordinate changes at the seams and commit appropriate resources to this ongoing process.

