There have been significant worldwide changes since the last newsletter. As we navigate a new environment where “social distancing” is the term of the day and we work with new coworkers in the form of our spouses, children and pets, WAPA remains committed to providing premier power and transmission services to our customers.

Despite the massive change brought to society by COVID-19, WAPA employees and many of our customers continue to work toward meeting all the deadlines around energy imbalance management while working mostly from home.

All meetings with customers, third-party contractors and internal to WAPA are being held by phone, WebEx or video teleconference to the maximum extent possible while we continue business as usual in an unusual way.

SN ADAPTS COORDINATION, TRAINING WITH PARTNERS

Sierra Nevada staff has continued California Independent System Operator computer-based training while in-person train-the-trainer sessions for Merchant and Operations staff will be delayed until after May. Despite the delays, SN is still moving toward transitioning into the CAISO Western Energy Imbalance Market in April 2021, as scheduled.

Settlements and Rates teams have been researching CAISO charge codes and cost allocation processes to prepare for the upcoming public rates process. SN anticipates publicly releasing the EIM draft revisions to the Open Access Transmission Tariff early in May. This will allow both the OATT and rate processes to begin.

Merchant and Settlements employees are actively working with vendors to upgrade software to integrate with CAISO’s existing EIM software. Finally, SN and the Balancing Authority of Northern California are determining necessary changes to balancing authority and sub-BA operations for EIM.

A CLOSER LOOK:
ZONAL GENERATION MODEL

The generation model aggregates generation into three zones based on geographic areas: North, Central and South.

- North: Trinity River Division, Shasta, Keswick and surrounding smaller units
- Central: Folsom and Nimbus dams
- South: New Melones dam

Grouping generating units will allow Reclamation to respond to CAISO’s dispatch signals from any aggregated unit. This allows Reclamation to efficiently meet both water and power demands without adversely impacting market participation.

More information on SN’s transition is available at the SN energy imbalance market activities webpage.
DSW CONTINUES MARKET STUDIES

Desert Southwest, other participating utilities and the consulting firm, Utilicast, have compiled the vast majority of initial data needed for a gap analysis of operational needs for a new energy imbalance management structure. Detailed information on metering is the last set of data that needs to be finished. Utilicast will begin presenting their initial findings within the next week.

Data gathering to support the energy imbalance benefit study is nearly complete. DSW and the benefit study partners, along with support from Argonne National Laboratory and the Bureau of Reclamation, will provide final load, generation and transmission figures to the consulting firm, E3, within the next week. This data will be used for the initial business-as-usual case. The CAISO EIM and SPP WEIS cases will follow with complete results still projected for this coming summer.

An informational session for customers was held March 25 to provide updates on both studies. More information on DSW’s effort is available on the DSW energy imbalance market activities webpage.

WACM BA SERVICES AGREEMENT DRAFT REVIEW UNDERWAY

WAPA unveiled its proposed Balancing Authority Services Agreement to Western Area Colorado Missouri BA customers at a March 3 webinar. A second draft will be sent to customers April 9 with a follow-up webinar scheduled for April 14 to discuss the comments and questions received from the customers in March. The contract will be reviewed in the morning and operational issues will be discussed that afternoon. Be on the lookout for a detailed agenda to be sent out soon. WAPA is planning to have the final version available for signature by late June or early July.

Despite the limitations presented by the COVID-19 issues, WAPA staff will continue outreach discussions with customers. WAPA will soon send customer-specific WEIS registration information to WACM customers who have been registered as non-market participants. WAPA will discuss the asset registration information with non-market participants and process changes needed to transition into WEIS.

APRIL MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR WEIS

A list of engagement opportunities for the WEIS transition is available on the WEIS activities webpage.

Important dates for April include:

- April: Settlements one-on-one meetings with customers
- April 9: Second draft of BA Services Agreement sent out
- April 14: Market protocols meeting 2 and BA Services Agreement meeting 2
- April-May: Data requests shared

Thank you for reading the WAPA and Markets newsletter. For more information, call your regional representative or visit the WAPA-wide energy imbalance activities webpage on The Source.