Welcome to the November issue of the WAPA and markets newsletter designed to share information on WAPA’s activities around energy imbalance management.

On Nov. 12, Southwest Power Pool announced a new evaluation to expand the SPP Regional Transmission Organization into the West. This evaluation includes WAPA’s Upper Great Plains – West and Loveland Area Projects along with several other utilities in the Front Range. WAPA also sent a letter to customers further defining our involvement in this initiative. In addition, we will continue to evaluate options for the Colorado River Storage Project and Desert Southwest region, including energy imbalance management solutions for DSW and a unified rate across the CRSP and DSW transmission systems.

Participating in SPP’s exploratory effort to expand the RTO into the West is consistent with our commitment to evaluate alternative ways of doing business that will retain and increase the value of WAPA to customers.

Customer discussions and technical studies are expected to begin next year. We will regularly communicate our activities and the potential benefits with our customers and other stakeholders as we assess this opportunity. If this idea continues to show promise, we will work through with customers and other stakeholders before any final decisions are made.

INITIAL TESTS SUCCESSFUL AT SN FOR CAISO EIM INTEGRATION

Sierra Nevada’s tests with the California Independent System Operator to prepare for the March 25 transition into the Western Energy Imbalance Market transition have been successful so far. These tests include Day in the Life and metering capability testing as well as two rounds of structured market simulation scenarios. The market simulation structured scenarios will run through January in advance of parallel operations.

SN has also developed outage processes for EIM and is working on developing and formalizing strategies for interacting with the market day to day.

SN’s rate adjustment process is proceeding well, closing out the public comment period Oct. 29. We received one additional comment during the comment period, which was supportive of the rate adjustment and joining CAISO’s EIM. SN anticipates publishing the final rate order in the Federal Register early next year.

Finally, we continue to work with the software vendor to resolve identified variances and issues. We are also implementing individual software and data integrations for related systems interacting with the new environment.

More information on SN’s transition is available at the SN energy imbalance market activities webpage.
WEIS, FINAL BA SERVICES AGREEMENT SENT TO CUSTOMERS; RATES BROCHURE PUBLISHED

The Western Area Colorado Missouri BA team worked their way through the last set of comments on the BA Services Agreement these past few weeks. After making the necessary changes, the finalized agreement was sent to customers Nov. 10. We will begin to send out the agreements for signature shortly.

On Nov. 6, the “Rocky Mountain Proposed Rates for WEIS Market Participation” customer rate brochure was posted on the RM Rates webpage and distributed to customers. This brochure details the necessary changes to the existing Energy and Generator Imbalance Services and Losses Service rate schedules, a new rate schedule for Joint Dispatch Transmission Service and the rate process timelines.

On Nov. 10, WAPA sent an update on Open Access Transmission Tariff Revision 20-02 to all customers, alerting them to the availability of the final OATT revision redline documents. The new version clarifies changes from the June 16 OATT revisions, including the new Attachment R, as well as contains nonmaterial clean-up and formatting edits.

OATT Revision 20-02, which will cover the CRSP’s and RM’s participation in the SPP-administered WEIS, is now expected to be filed around Dec. 2. However, that timeframe may change further depending upon the status of the WEIS tariff at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

All information on this revision, including the notice of intent and ways to engage, is available on WAPA’s Open Access Same-Time Information System.

We also expect to publish the revised business practices on OASIS in early December for stakeholder comments and input.

DSW, NEIGHBORING UTILITIES PUBLISH STUDY UPDATE

On Oct. 28, DSW, Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Central Arizona Water Conservation District and Southwest Public Power Agency released their second study update. The E3 benefits study is undergoing a second base condition analysis after the initial results revealed a need to update certain variables in the study earlier this year.

Once the base condition analysis has been finalized, there may be some sensitivity analyses that will need to be examined. As long as all goes well, the study participants expect to share results before the end of the year.

The cost analysis, run by Utilicast for DSW and AEPCO, is essentially complete. This study identified the initial upfront costs associated with joining either the EIM or Western Energy Imbalance Service market and the annual ongoing costs of each option.

As the Balancing Authority and sub-BA operators, DSW and AEPCO would incur these costs initially and then pass them on through their respective rates. The cost estimates will be shared with the benefits study results, once ready, to provide customers and stakeholders a complete picture of potential market participation.

More information on DSW’s effort is available on the DSW energy imbalance market activities webpage. You can also read the first update on these studies published May 26 by DSW and fellow study participants.

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