Reliability Coordinator Forum (via WebEx)
Notes
July 19, 2018

These notes are being provided for informational purposes only. These notes are not a formal record of the meeting and do not necessarily represent the statements or positions of WECC or other participants.

Reliability Coordinator Initiatives Panel (CAISO, AESO, SPP, PEAK)

- Peak wind-down expected by December 31, 2019, (announced on July 18, 2018).
    - Peak remains committed to maintaining reliability from now until the last day they exist in their current RC structure. Staff remains professional and planning for any risks to ensure a smooth transition is made.
- Planning is now moving forward with three RCs, beginning on July 1, 2019.
- Planning for funding and governance of shared tools underway.
- CAISO RC certification visit is planned for Feb/March of 2019.
- SPP RC certification will be later in 2019.
- BC Hydro continues to explore options to become their own RC.
- Data sharing – plan is for BAs/TOPs to supply data to their RC and for RCs to share data among themselves.
- SOL Methodology – common principles across all RCs with individual methodologies for each individual RC.
- SPP plans to adopt Peak's Seasonal Coordination process.
- CAISO plans to use COS, at least to start with, though some enhancements are needed, (currently being worked on with the vendor of COS).
- Unscheduled Flow, IRO-006-WECC-1, R1 requires each RC to approve a request for USF relief from the TOP -- working with WECC to see if this can be revisited. It was noted that in the past, there have been "phase shifter wars". RCs acknowledged this and agreed that they will have a documented process and proper visibility to avoid "phase shifter" wars in the future.
- ECC – costs for making it compatible for multiple RCs to access ECC is being explored.
- RCs intend to all use a common west-wide model. Question: how far beyond your RC footprint should the RC monitor? Common model is critical to automated tools for the RCs. RCs are working to determine common assumptions they will use so the overall west-wide model is consistent.
- RAS coordination – RCs support a continuing role for a west-wide RASRS committee, remaining under WECC governance.
- IRO-010 Data sharing – plan for commonality of data requests.

- CAISO and Peak are planning "shadow operations" to allow CAISO to stand up their RC functions and tools and operate in parallel before they become the RC. SPP has experience working with multiple RCs and created a document that outlines the requirements for shadow operations and will share this document and their experiences on shadow operations.
- Questions have been sent to NERC on TOPs having to follow their BA for RC services. As of now, NERC Rules of Procedure state TOPs have the same RC as their BA.
- IROL calculations – present thinking is the RC who first identified the IROL will be the primary on calculation, with other involved RC(s) in secondary role.
- Each RC will implement their own:
    - Reliability Messaging Tool (RMT), with intra-RC messaging system enabled. BAs/TOPs expressed concern on how RC-RC messaging will happen, especially for BA/TOP that needs to alert another BA/TOP that has a different RC. CAISO is committed to following up on this,
    - Synchrophasor Tools,
    - Visualization/Situational Awareness Tools,
    - Transient Stability tools. It was acknowledged that transient issues have a wide footprint so RCs would need to think beyond their footprint.
- Working on replacement of the Synchrophasor Network (currently Harris). Other networks being addressed: WECC Operations Network (WON), SPPNet, and Real-time data exchange network. Time latency and robustness/redundancy concerns were raised. This network approach would not preclude BAs/TOPs from having direct ICCP data exchanges.

Reliability Considerations in a Multi-RC Environment

Desert SW

- Multiple RC drivers are not centered around reliability; Western Interconnection historically has desired to have a single RC. That said, we need engage in the new world and find the best path forward for our entities and the Western Interconnection.
- Learn from our history – why the west went from 3 RCs to one RC.
- WECC's role in this? Convener of BAs/TOPs, facilitate conversations, participate in RC-RC meetings, provide open discussion forums.

Pacific NW

- Avoid "swiss cheese" – better if geographic sub-areas have a common RC.
- Important to have parallel operations of old/new RC so the new RC is fully tested and BA/TOP is trained/familiar with new processes.
- Defined/Documented roles and responsibilities for emergency operations. Conduct simulation exercises before going live with multiple RCs.

- Suggestion made to look at lessons learned from period when west had multiple RC's so we can avoid pitfalls.

Rocky Mountains

- Rocky Mountain region already has RC seams. They do present challenges, but can be worked through.
- Important for all RCs to succeed for the reliability of the Western Interconnection, regardless of which RC individual BAs/TOPs choose.
- Noted it would be helpful if RC's can work through dry runs before any transitions.

Updates on supporting initiatives – WECC

- IRO-002-5, Requirement 5 Regional Variance SAR.
- SDT Nominees are in, do not have representation from all sectors as hoped for.
- Regional variance says that each RC in the west would use an Interconnection-wide model. The WECC Standards Committee approved and are seeking nominees for drafting team.

RC Certification update – WECC

- Working on creating a certification team for each RC certification.
- Names are still being accepted, should any BA/TOP representatives be interested.
- Small amount of training is required to serve on the RC Certification teams.
- Certification is to ascertain that the proposed RC can successfully perform all the RC functions.

Open Discussion

- It will be helpful to know as soon as possible who each BA/TOP will choose for their RC.
- Collaboration during transition is important, WECC is a good forum for this collaboration.
- WECC doesn't have lot of decision making authority, but has a key role in certifications and providing a central forum. Big concern is making sure PEAK can provide reliability right up to the date their operations ceases, which largely rests on keeping staff.
- All members have a duty to be "in the know" and need to be confident in all RCs, because there will be impacts.
- WIRAB noted they are engaged on issues and looking to all entities to work together collaboratively. Governance comes up all the time and didn't seem to be addressed to date. Consider the structure of how other stakeholders interact with all the changes.
- As we move through RC transitions, focus on:
    - RCs each having adequate visibility into each other's areas,
    - Preparation for major events,

- Learn from history, both your own and other areas of the nation.