

# **WESTTRANS FOCUS GROUP MEETING MINUTES JUNE 8, 2004**

The Westtrans Focus Group meeting was held at SRP corporate offices in Tempe, AZ. The Focus Group meeting objective was to organize the customers and develop a forum for advancing the Westtrans transmission market through discussion of market improvements, business practice constraints, and software improvements.

Introductions/Arrangements/Agenda

Jerry Bicknell

- Attendees by category
  - Users 6
  - Providers 6
  - Software Support 3
  - Consumer Groups 1
  - Executive Committee 2

Westtrans Introduction

Jerry Bicknell

- Formation of Western Public Power Initiative (WPPI) then into Public Power Initiative of the West (PPIW)
- Discussed the origins of Westtrans group and their goal of enhancing the competitive wholesale electricity markets.
- Formation of group with Westconnect to pursue common goals for bettering the markets
- Westtrans became the official site name for the common oasis and the coalition of transmission providers associated with it from Westconnect and PPIW
- Two formal groups that meet; the Executive and Technical committees

Formation of a Focus Group

Jerry Bicknell

- Group will be customer driven
- Allows for a true voice from the actual users
- Helps to bring about software solutions to common problems
- Westtrans and OATI desire a successful venture

Structure of Focus Group

Jerry Bicknell

- Group agreed to utilize a loose governance to begin
- Volunteer chair for one-year term; Jerry Bicknell to serve first
- Each customers company would declare a representative and back-up
- Focus group will bring both problems and proposed solutions
- A straw-man of the structure would be initiated by Jerry Bicknell for group

- Not all changes will be funded by providers and may require customers to pay fees for improvements

## Demo of Software

## OATI

- **Resale Tools:** Described as a way to post unused transmission purchased on the node. Helps wholesale customer to recover some of their costs and makes more transmission available to the market.
  - Posting Wizard
  - Activating Customers
  - Customer Credit Limits
  - Tracking Capacity Sold
- **Deal Maker:** Presented as a tool to help wholesale customers find many combinations of paths to go from POR to POD using multiple providers rights and offerings. Templates allow users to save commonly utilized path combinations for efficient use.
  - Deal Summary
  - Deal Wizard
- **Energy Bulletin Board:** Depicted as a very simple software mechanism used to express interest in obtaining energy at different points in the system. Intended to give visibility to various energy needs across the systems and bring buyers and sellers together to initiate a deal. Not a clearinghouse.
  - Create Bid/Offer
  - Delete Bid/Offer
  - Counterparty contact information

## Discussion on Improvements

1. Dates and ranges have various, differing defaults on various pages.
2. Users want a formal way to be notified of changes to the software and what those changes affect.
3. Links placed on site: FERC, NERC, TSIN etc.
4. Column describing the status of rollover rights so user knows if the product retains rights or not.
5. Access to templates for data mining software should allow customer to query across All transmission providers.

6. Upon submittal of a TSR, window closes and goes back to TSR summary. Possible to go back to TSR form?
7. Default for the TP field appears arbitrary and should be capable of being set by the customer.
8. One location for all WestTTrans TP's to depict outages so users don't have to look multiple places for information.
9. Disconnects between what a TC purchases on OASIS versus the TP's requirements on how to tag usage of the reservation. Possible to add notification to TC on how to tag that reservation?
  - Extension to OASIS for definition of Scheduling Entities (SE) and ability to map SE adjacency and map SEs to commercial paths.
  - westTTrans Tech Committee will take this as an action item
10. TP's need to notify transmission customers of fixes made to OASIS by OATI that are TP related problem fixes.
11. Customers want more visible notification of things coming up or happening that either effect them or require action. (i.e. training, focus group)

#### Conclusions:

- Jerry Bicknell will be chair for one year
- Focus group will be notified of meeting schedule
- A straw man of Governance will be written
- Group will try to help get more users involved in this process.
- Next meeting will be held via conference call
- There will be a meeting of the westTTrans Focus Group in conjunction with OATI's annual meeting in October.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm