

Comments of Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. on the
MPSC Expectations for Midwest ISO Transmission Expansion Plan 2009
(MTEP09) Process Document

Comments

Wolverine appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) document entitled “*MPSC Expectations for Midwest ISO Transmission Expansion Plan 2009 (MTEP09) Process*” that was distributed as part of the Information Sharing Workgroup of the Michigan Planning Consortium (Consortium). Wolverine supports regional transmission planning and strongly believes that a robust, well-designed regional transmission grid is essential to insuring that reliable, efficient and cost-effective electric supply is available to Michigan’s retail electric customers. The Consortium is providing a useful forum for the sharing of information among stakeholders.

Wolverine adheres to all transmission planning requirements set forth by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and complies with all mandatory reliability standards established by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). It is important that federal processes and transmission-owner obligations are not compromised through the Consortium effort. Where consensus may not be attainable on a given project, it is important that the transmission owner is not impeded in the attainment of mandatory standards for which the transmission owner alone has the compliance responsibility.

Rather, Wolverine agrees with the MPSC that the Consortium should mesh with and add value to the Midwest ISO transmission planning process. One key area that has been discussed at the Information Sharing Workgroup meetings that could significantly improve the process among Michigan stakeholders is in the area of load forecasting. Clear discussions of economic metrics that are being included, as well as assumptions on the effects of energy optimization plans would be very instructive to transmission owners in the early stages of the transmission planning process. Reaching agreement on processes in this area would be extremely helpful.

Wolverine supports the efforts of the Consortium and the role the MPSC is playing in fostering a productive dialogue among Michigan stakeholders. The Midwest ISO MTEP process is also evolving in response to stakeholder feedback. MTEP09 and future MTEP processes

should continue to improve and benefit from this stakeholder input. Wolverine recognizes the value of all parties' contributions early in the planning process and supports the Consortium's focus on information exchange early in each round of MTEP.