

## **Comments of the ISO/RTO Council Seams Issues for Interconnection Wide Standardization**

Market Seams are barriers and inefficiencies impede the ability to transact capacity and energy across control area boundaries. Seams are an implicit property in the transition to Markets. Many issues are rooted in the historical development of the grid. Examples of things that contribute to seams include physical equipment limitations, differences in market rules and designs, and differences in operating and scheduling protocols between control areas.

The ISOs and RTOs in North America are dedicated to resolving seams issues. The ISOs/RTOs, in conjunction with FERC, or other appropriate regulatory bodies, are collaborating with each other and with their market participants, through their respective stakeholder processes, to develop consistent market designs and rule sets. A great many of the seams issues and projects in progress are regional in nature. As such, the resolutions are often unique to a particular situation.

Given the diversity and complexity of many of the issues, the ISOs and RTOs suggest that early efforts be concentrated on a few core issues.

The ISOs/RTOs suggest that the following key items that contribute to market seams due to regional differences to focus on for potential standards development:

- Coordination of Congestion Management
  - Common practices
  - Common settlement approaches
  - Commonality in regional approaches
  
- Standard Definitions and Terminology for Energy Products and Services
  - Physical and Financial Transmission Services
  - Firm vs. Non-Firm
  - Energy and Transmission services
  - Ancillary Services including long term capacity (ICAP as an example) and black start
  
- Standard Notification Messages to MPs
  - Transmission outages (planned/forced)
  - Curtailments
  - Outages (planned/forced) to market interface equipment / systems

