

## **Announcement regarding the formation of an Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative (EIPC)**

**August 27, 2009:** NCTPC stakeholders have expressed interest in on-going efforts related to the formation of an Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative (EIPC) which started with preliminary discussions in late May. The initial focus of the EIPC participants has been on developing and establishing the structure of (and agreements for) an EIPC Analysis Group, which is intended to include all of the NERC Planning Authorities in the Eastern Interconnection. This work is nearing completion and it is anticipated that agreements for the EIPC Analysis Group will be in place for many of the Planning Authorities by September 1.

Next, the EIPC plans to develop an EIPC stakeholder process, which is intended to be an open, multi-constituency body representing all stakeholder segments. This step was delayed by the release of a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) issued by the DOE related to inter-regional planning, for which the EIPC plans to submit a bid. The FOA was issued June 14 with an initial 60-day submittal requirement, resulting in the EIPC participants refocusing the majority of their efforts toward preparing the required bid materials. The FOA deadline for submittals has since been extended to September 14. To help facilitate access to this information, the SIRPP has posted on its website three documents provided by the EIPC participants: (1.) an overview presentation related to the EIPC bid (2.) a current draft of the DOE project objectives, scope of work, and task descriptions (3.) The final EIPC Agreement that is out for signature by the Planning Authorities.

These documents may be accessed for your review on the NCTPC website ([www.nctpc.org/nctpc](http://www.nctpc.org/nctpc)) under the Reference Documents section tab.

Following the submission of the DOE bid, the EIPC has communicated that it plans to resume the development of the stakeholder process with a stakeholder meeting(s) to be scheduled this Fall.