

Board of Directors & Members committee

February 4, 2025

Virtual

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent agenda
 - a. Corporate Governance Committee
 - i. Revisions to Strategic Planning Committee Composition
 - b. Finance Committee
 - i. Pension and Post-Retirement Valuation Assumptions 7
 - c. Markets & Operations Policy Committee
 - i. 2025 SPP Transmission Expansion Plan Report (staff)
 - ii. Q1 2025 In-Service Date Delay (PCWG)
 - iii. RR650 HVDC Planning Criteria (TWG)
 - iv. Sponsored Upgrades SUS-039, SUS-40, SUS-041 (TWG)
 - d. Oversight Committee
 - i. Transmission Owner Selection Process: Industry Expert Pool
 - e. Staff
 - i. Dec. 2024 meeting minutes
 - ii. Winter Weather Event Close-Out Report
2. Endorsed the Long-Term PRM Policy Paper as presented.
3. Endorsed the 2029 PRM values of 38% for the Winter and 17% for the Summer.
4. Endorsed the SPP Expedited Resource Adequacy Study (ERAS) policy proposal, as presented.
5. Approved HITT M1 Item #1: give more opportunities to all participants to receive LTCR awards, as presented.
6. Approved closing HITT M1 Item #8: coordinate with planning to review firm transmission assumptions used in transmission planning processes, as presented.
7. Approved the designation of the following Short-Term Reliability Projects (STRP) identified in the 2024 ITP Assessment and the STRP Report:
 - Holcomb - Sidney 345 kV New Line (KS portion only)
 - Delaware - Monett 345 kV New Line
 - Monett - North Branson 345 kV New Line
 - Phantom - Crossroads - Potter 765 kV New Line
 - Iron House - Texaco 115 kV New Line
 - Grapevine - Kingsmill 115 kV New Line
 - Moore County - Xit 230 kV New Line
 - Buffalo Flats – Delaware 345 kV New Line

MINUTES

[Link to materials](#)

Call to Order and Administrative Items

SPP Board of Directors Chair Mr. John Cupparo called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m. CT. The following Board of Directors and Members Committee members were in attendance or represented by proxy:

Directors

Bronwen Bastone
Susan Certoma
John Cupparo
Irene Dimitry
Ray Hepper
Elizabeth Moore
Stuart Solomon
Barbara Sugg
Ben Trowbridge
Steve Wright

Members Committee

Denise Buffington, Evergy
Stacey Burbure, AEP Public Service Co. of Oklahoma
Dwayne Fulk, City Utilities of Springfield (*Warren Brooks as proxy*)
Steve Gaw, Advanced Power Alliance
Buddy Hasten, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (*Andrew Lachowsky as proxy*)
Bleau LaFave, NorthWestern Energy
Joe Lang, Omaha Public Power District
Lloyd Linke, Western Area Power Administration (*Steve Sanders as proxy for partial meeting*)
David Mindham EDP Renewables
Dave Osburn, Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority
Zac Perkins, Tri-County Electric Cooperative (*Dakota Lamb as proxy*)
Robert Pick, Nebraska Public Power District
Adrian Rodriguez, SPS/Xcel Energy (*Jarred Cooley as proxy for partial meeting*)
Jeremy Severson, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (*Jason Mazigian as proxy*)
Emily Shuart, Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company
Kevin Smith, Tenaska Power Services (*Kara Whillock as proxy*)
Al Tamimi, Sunflower Electric Power Corp
Christy Walsh, Natural Resources Defense Council (*Annie Minondo as proxy for partial meeting*)
Brett White, Pine Gate Renewables
Tim Wilson, Liberty Utilities (Empire District) (*Terra Higgins as proxy for partial meeting*)
Mike Wise, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative
C. Patrick Woods, ITC Great Plains

The Webex attendance list is attached.

2. — Consent Agenda

Chair John Cupparo asked if there were any items that needed to be removed from the consent agenda. There were none.

Susan Certoma made and Stuart Solomon seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. The Members Committee voted in favor with four abstentions. The Board of Directors voted by secret ballot and approved the motion.

3.1 — President's Report

President & CEO Barbara Sugg shared her thoughts and noted many accomplishments of the organization over the last five years when she served as President and CEO. Ms. Sugg thanked John Cupparo and Elizabeth Moore for their service as Board Chair and Vice Chair.

On April 1, SPP's current COO Lanny Nickell will take over as SPP's President and CEO. Mr. Nickell noted there are three pillars of his platform as the new CEO: ambitious strategy, high visibility and operational excellence. He announced that Kevin Bryant, former Evergy COO, will join SPP April 1 as SPP's new Executive Vice President of Stakeholder Affairs and Chief Strategy Officer.

Mr. Nickell reviewed SPP's 2025 corporate goals: continue mitigating resource adequacy risks, accelerate generator and load interconnection while planning for "load of the future, and continue Western expansion. Each goal includes a list of milestones SPP will track throughout the year.

3.1.1. Lanny Nickell gave an update on the long-term planning reserve margin (PRM) action plan to provide load responsible entities more certainty and advance notice of changing PRM requirements.

3.2. — Regional State Committee Report

President Patrick O'Connell provided the RSC's report to the board. The RSC voted on six items; four of these voting items were carried forward for a board vote.

3.2.1 — Long-Term Planning Reserve Margin Policy

The long-term PRM policy outlines the framework for establishing long-term planning horizon PRM requirements in a way that minimizes alterations to those requirements with adequate advance notice. The RSC recommended the SPP Board of Directors endorse the Long-Term PRM Policy Paper as presented.

Ray Hepper made and Steve Wright seconded a motion to endorse the Long-Term PRM Policy Paper as presented. The Members Committee voted in favor with one opposed (Natural Resources Defense Council) **and no abstentions. The Board voted by secret ballot and approved the motion.**

3.2.2 — 2029 Planning Reserve Margin

The 2029 PRM study and results are based on the 2024 submitted forecast for the resource and load mix using the 2023 Loss Of Load Expectation Study assumptions. The RSC recommended the SPP Board of Directors endorse the 2029 PRM values of 38% for the Winter and 17% for the Summer.

Steve Wright made and Irene Dimitry seconded a motion to endorse the 2029 PRM values of 38% for the Winter and 17% for the Summer. The Members Committee voted in favor with three opposed (Natural Resources Defense Council, Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Evergy Companies) **and**

one abstention (Golden Spread Electric Cooperative). **The Board voted by secret ballot and approved the motion.**

3.2.3 — SPP Expedited Resource Adequacy Study Policy

The SPP Expedited Resource Adequacy Study policy is a one-time study process to expedite resource interconnection to meet resource adequacy needs. This study will be conducted outside of the regular generator interconnection study queue on a shortened timeframe. The RSC recommended the SPP Board of Directors endorse the SPP Expedited Resource Adequacy Study (ERAS) policy proposal, as presented.

Several stakeholders expressed concern about this policy adding costs to consumers, potential impacts to the existing generator interconnection queue, legal hurdles at FERC, and the fact that only projects selected by load responsible entities (LREs) may be submitted into the queue. Other stakeholders expressed appreciation for staff's collaboration on this policy, as it is needed for LREs to be able to quickly build generation to meet PRMs. It was noted that stakeholders need to see the revision request for this policy, and that the process needs guardrails. John Cupparo noted staff should set direction regarding RR development and implementation.

Stuart Solomon made and Barbara Sugg seconded a motion to endorse the SPP Expedited Resource Adequacy Study (ERAS) policy proposal, as presented. The Members Committee voted in favor with four opposed (Advanced Power Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pine Gate Renewables, EDP Renewables) **and two abstentions** (Basin Electric Power, Western Area Power Administration). **The Board voted by secret ballot and approved the motion.**

3.2.4 — HITT M1: Congestion Hedging Improvement Policy Items 1 and 8

The RSC brought forward a vote on HITT M1: Congestion Hedging Improvements Policy Items 1 and 8. SPP staff has been working with the Cost Allocation Working Group and Market Working Group to develop a process to allow eligible entities the opportunity to receive Long-Term Congestion Rights.

The RSC recommended the board approve HITT M1 Item #1: give more opportunities to all participants to receive LTCR awards, as presented.

Susan Certoma made and Steve Wright seconded a motion to approve HITT M1 Item #1: give more opportunities to all participants to receive LTCR awards, as presented. The Members Committee voted in opposition with 10 opposed (Basin Electric Power, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp., Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Evergy Companies, NorthWestern Energy, Oklahoma Gas & Electric, Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority, Nebraska Public Power District, Omaha Public Power District) **and six abstentions** (Natural Resources Defense Council, SPS/Xcel Energy, AEP, Liberty Utilities, Tenaska Power Service, ITC Great Plains). **The Board voted by secret ballot and approved the motion.**

The RSC recommended the board approve closing HITT M1 Item #8: coordinate with planning to review firm transmission assumptions used in transmission planning processes, as presented. There are ongoing projects in the transmission planning process that are aimed at making improvements in this area.

Irene Dimitry moved and Elizabeth Moore seconded a motion to approve closing HITT M1 Item #8: coordinate with planning to review firm transmission assumptions used in transmission planning processes, as presented. The Members Committee voted in favor with none opposed and four abstentions (Natural Resources Defense Council, Evergy Companies, Liberty Utilities, ITC Great Plains). **The Board voted by secret ballot and approved the motion.**

3.3 — Corporate Governance Committee Report

Chair Barbara Sugg reported that the CGC considers the adaptive governance review, as identified in the Aspire 2026 Strategic Plan, as complete. At its November meeting, the group approved a recommendation to add a board seat to the Strategic Planning Committee and approved revisions to the Project Cost Working Group scope. At its February meeting the group will discuss the renomination of directors Brownen Bastone, Ray Hepper and Steve Wright.

3.4 — Finance Committee Report

Chair Stuart Solomon shared that the Finance Committee approved actuarial assumptions to be used in the valuation for the pension and post-retirement healthcare plans. The committee also approved Markets+ Phase 2 funding and authorized execution of financing arrangements for Market+.

3.5 — Human Resources Committee Report

Chair Bronwen Bastone reported that at its last meeting, the committee approved performance compensation for staff's work in 2024. Metrics considered when deciding performance compensation includes: cost control, compliance, member satisfaction, operational excellence, and corporate goal results. The group also discussed performance compensation plan metrics for 2025 and quarterly HR metrics.

3.6 — Oversight Committee Report

Chair Ray Hepper provided an update on the committee's work with the SPP Market Monitoring Unit and the Regional Transmission Organization's internal audit, compliance, enterprise risk management, cyber security, physical security, and emergency management groups. At its last meeting, the committee approved the pool of independent experts for competitive transmission projects. Ray introduced Carrie Bivens, the new Vice President of the Market Monitoring Unit.

3.7 — Strategic Planning Committee Report

Chair John Cupparo reported the Strategic Planning Committee has kicked off work on SPP's next strategic plan. There will be a four-phase process to align SPP and stakeholders around a strategy to guide SPP in the coming years. The committee also discussed challenges with spot load additions and interregional transmission opportunities.

3.8 — Markets and Operations Policy Committee Report

Chair Joe Lang gave an update on the MOPC's recent work. At its January meeting, the committee approved 22 items with an average consensus of 97%. Notable approvals included the 2029 PRM, long-term PRM policy paper, and the 2026 Integrated Transmission Plan and Consolidated Planning Program transition assessment scope. The committee also discussed updates to the ITP Manual and received the Q4 2024 operations review.

3.9 — Staff Report: 2024 ITP Short-Term Reliability Projects Report

SPP Vice President of Engineering Casey Cathey presented the 2024 Short-Term Reliability Project (STRP) Report. There are 89 projects in the 2024 ITP portfolio. Of these 89 projects, eight projects were identified as needed to maintain reliability and qualify as Short Term Reliability Projects under SPP's tariff.

Project Description	State	Project Cost	Miles	Need Date
Holcomb - Sidney 345 kV circuit 1 New Line (KS portion only)	KS	\$399,357,367	135.0	Immediate
Delaware - Monett 345 kV circuit kt 1 New Line	OK/MO	\$342,608,905	114.5	December 1, 2025
Monett - North Branson 345 kV circuit 1 New Line	MO	\$165,800,962	47.2	December 1, 2025
Phantom - Crossroads - Potter 765 kV circuit 1 New Line	NM/TX	\$1,690,874,827	293.0	April 1, 2025
Iron House - Texaco 115 kV circuit 1 New Line	NM	\$5,703,716	2.3	June 1, 2025
Grapevine - Kingsmill 115 kV New Line	TX	\$14,337,209	10.7	June 1, 2025
Moore County - Xit 230 kV circuit 1 New Line	TX	\$52,830,105	46.2	June 1, 2025
Buffalo Flats – Delaware 345 kV New Line	KS/OK	\$484,090,326	154.6	December 1, 2025

A project meets the requirements to be considered a STRP if the project is needed within three years or less to address reliability needs. If a project is eligible to be a STRP, the SPP board of directors may approve a project as a STRP after receiving comments during a 30-day comment window. If a project is deemed a STRP, the project is not required to be subject to a competitive process under FERC Order No. 1000.

SPP evaluated and tested proposed solutions against every reliability need with time-sensitive needs identified in the 2024 ITP Needs Assessment, including winter weather projects and operational persistence.

The STRP Report was publicly posted for stakeholder comments. Comments were submitted by American Clean Power, American Power Alliance, Industrial Energy Consumers of America, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Kansas Power Pool, Tri County Electric Cooperative, LS Power, NextEra, and Viridon. The comments were both in support of and in opposition to these projects being designated as STRPs.

Staff clarified that these projects met the SPP Tariff's requirements to be designated as STRPs. SPP followed the tariff-required process for posting the STRP Report with the required information and providing an opportunity for comments. Staff stated that if the board designated the projects as STRPs, this approval would be consistent with SPP's tariff requirements.

SPP staff recommended the board approve the designation of the following Short-Term Reliability Projects identified in the 2024 ITP Assessment:

- Holcomb - Sidney 345 kV New Line (KS portion only)
- Delaware - Monett 345 kV New Line
- Monett - North Branson 345 kV New Line
- Phantom - Crossroads - Potter 765 kV New Line
- Iron House - Texaco 115 kV New Line
- Grapevine - Kingsmill 115 kV New Line
- Moore County - Xit 230 kV New Line
- Buffalo Flats – Delaware 345 kV New Line

Stakeholders in opposition to designating projects in the STRP Report noted:

- Directly assigning these projects would circumvent the Order 1000 process.
- The 2025 ITP is expected to be very large and could also have a large number of STRPs.
- SPP should use the Order 1000 process for these regional projects.
- Direct assignment won't necessarily get projects in service more quickly than a competitive process.
- The competitive process benefits rate payers and provides more accountability.
- Since SPP is focused on affordability, Order 1000 is necessary to achieve this. Transmission is the biggest cost to consumers.

Stakeholders in support of designating projects in STRP Report noted:

- Direct assignment is not circumventing Order 1000, which considered there would be immediate needs for reliability.
- Customers in target areas for winter storm impacts need these projects to be in service quickly, and incumbent transmission owners facing load shed will make these projects the highest priority.
- FERC precedent states the need-by date is what is determinative, not the in-service date; precedent supports the issuance of notifications to construct (NTC) to incumbents.
- When incumbent transmission owners build, there are multiple levels of review such as at state commissions, and TOs use competition when bidding out engineering and construction.
- SPP's Independent Expert Panel process may not be prepared to handle multiple projects.

Ray Hepper stated appreciation for the submitted comments and said he does not view the board's action as setting a precedent for future STRPs; this vote is just on these particular projects.

John Cupparo concurred that the board's action is not precedent setting; the board has discretion on how to treat STRPs each time they are presented to the board. He wants the board to establish mechanisms by October 2025 to better inform these decisions and will seek input from stakeholders.

Stuart Solomon noted the board often does not have a complete view into transmission project construction, siting, permitting, etc. and would like to have more transparency into STRPs that are directly assigned to transmission owners.

Ray Hepper made and Barbara Sugg seconded a motion to approve the designation of the following Short-Term Reliability Projects identified in the 2024 ITP Assessment:

- **Holcomb - Sidney 345 kV New Line (KS portion only)**
- **Delaware - Monett 345 kV New Line**
- **Monett - North Branson 345 kV New Line**
- **Phantom - Crossroads - Potter 765 kV New Line**
- **Iron House - Texaco 115 kV New Line**
- **Grapevine - Kingsmill 115 kV New Line**
- **Moore County - Xit 230 kV New Line**
- **Buffalo Flats - Delaware 345 kV New Line**

During discussion on the motion, Irene Dimitry stated the board is challenged in balancing its decision with a lack of documented criteria in how to make the distinction. Noting that FERC declined to establish criteria to consider project size and dollar amount when determining competitive projects or STRPs. She supports more guidelines going forward. She suggested amending the motion to remove the Phantom - Crossroads - Potter 765 kV line and to make that project competitive.

Irene Dimitry made and Elizabeth Moore seconded a motion to remove the Phantom – Crossroads – Potter 765 kV line from the STRP designation. The Members Committee voted in opposition to this amendment with 11 opposed (Basin Electric Power, Tri-County Electric Co-op, Western Area Power Administration, Evergy Companies, NorthWestern Energy, SPS/Xcel Energy, AEP, Liberty Utilities, Oklahoma Gas & Electric, Nebraska Public Power District, Omaha Public Power District) **and 3 abstentions** (Natural Resources Defense Council, Tenaska Power Service, City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri). **The Board voted by secret ballot and opposed the motion.**

After the failed motion to amend the STRP Report to remove the Phantom – Crossroads – Potter 765 kV line from the STRP list, the board proceeded with a vote on the original motion to approve all projects in the STRP Report as STRPs.

The Members Committee voted in favor of the original motion to approve the designation of the Short-Term Reliability Projects identified in the 2024 ITP Assessment with 6 opposed (Advanced Power Alliance, Arkansas Electric Co-op Corp., Tri-County Electric Co-op, Golden Spread Electric Co-op, EDP Renewables, Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority) **and 1 abstention** (Natural Resources Defense Council). **The Board voted by secret ballot and approved the motion.**

Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Cupparo adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM CT.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Suskie, Secretary to the SPP Board of Directors

Christine	Aarnes
Felek	Abbas
Nick	Abraham
Derek	Abrams
Malcolm	Ainspan
Kelsey	Allen
Matt	Alvarado
Angie	Anderson
Lee	Anderson
Paul	Antony
Emeka	Anyanwu
SPP	Auditorium
Eric	Austin
Austin	Baccus
Micha	Bailey
Adriane	Barnes
Bronwen	Bastone
Adam	Bell
Ryan	Benton
Ray	Bergmeier
Julie	Bissen
Carrie	Bivens
Tom	Bozeman
Ben	Bright
Tammy	Bright
Warren	Brooks
Andrew	Brown
Derek	Brown
Natasha	Brown OMPA
Denise	Buffington
Stacey	Burbure
David	Busse
Trent	Campbell
Russell	Carey
Kelly	Carney
Casey	Cathey
Matt	Caves
Walt	Cecil
Susan	Certoma
Jason	Chaplin
Jake	Chapman
Marisa	Choate
Randy	Christmann
Shawnee	Claiborn-Pinto

Patrick	Clarey
Lori	Cobos
Brad	Cochran
David	Cohen
Dennis	Constien
Jarred	Cooley
Chris	Cranford
Alex	Crawford
Alyssa	Culver
John	Cupparo
Michael	Daly
Brian	Daschbach
Kim	David
Chris	Davis
Jason	Davis
Irene	Dimitry
Loren	Ditsch
Carrie	Dixon
Aaron	Doll
Andrea	Doucette
Victoria	Doyle
Mark	Eastwood
Apryl	Eby
Lee	Elliott (Invenergy)
Sam	Ellis
Kristie	Fiegen
Regan	Fink
Matthew	Fioretti
Dennis	Florom
Bridgette	Frazier
Gayle	Freier
Andrew	French
Don	Frerking
Mike	Gahimer
Diana	Gastelum
Steve	Gaw
Shawn	Geil
Rich	Germinder
Arash	Ghodsian
Ty	Gorman
Justin	Grady
Tony	Green
Esat	Guney
Vinit	Gupta

Kayla	Hahn
Chris	Haley
Kirk	Hall
Christopher	Hanson
Michelle	Harris
Andrea	Harrison
Eric	Henderson
Natasha	Henderson
Charles	Hendrix
Ray	Hepper
Terra	Higgins
Melanie	Hill
Justin	Hinton
Mark	Hodges
Larry	Holloway
Olivia	Hough
Ryan	Hubbard
Maurisa	Hughes
CARL	HUSLIG
Chuck	Hutchison
hwon	hwon
Cindy	Ireland
Matt	Jackson
Matthew	Jackson
Jim	Jacoby
Jillian	Janik
Rob	Janssen
Ryan	Johnson
Jessica	Kasperek
Brooke	Keene
David	Kelley
Tessie	Kentner
Kevin	Kingsley
Tom	Kleckner
Jeff	Kline
Kara	Kolkman
Doug	Kouskouris
Mike	Kraft
Jim	Krajecki
John	Krajewski
Margaret	Kristian
ANDREW	LACHOWSKY
Bleau	LaFave
Brad	Lafler

[illegible]

N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A
Cristian	Navarrette
Mateusz	Neska
Maya	Nevels
Amy	Newton
Patrick	O'Connell
John	O'Dell
Kim	O'Guinn
David	Osburn
Susanna	Padilla
Matt	Pawlowski
Bradley	Payne
Brian	Pedersen
Terri	Pemberton
Emily	Pennel
James	Peters
Robert	Pick
Meredith	Powell
Mark	Price
Robert	Printy
Steve	Purdy
Russell	Quattlebaum
Sunny	Raheem
Farrokh	Rahimi
Michael	Ratliff
Michael	Ray
Dennis	Reed
Bruce	Rew
Mike	Riley
LaKeitha	Rinks
Greg	Rislov
Temujin	Roach
Michael	Robinson
Adrian	Rodriguez
Calvin	Rosenbaum
Mike	Ross
C. Richard	Ross
Brian	Rounds
Sarah	Ruen (Tri-State)
Robert	Safuto
Matt	Salvador

Eric	Samson
Ashley	Sanders
Steve	Sanders
Angela	Sartori
Vijay	Satyal
Adam	Schieffer
Meghan	Sever
Jeremy	Severson
Dana	Shelton
Emily	Shuart
Walt	Shumate
Lane	Sisung
Dustin	Smith
Tara	Smith
Adam	Snapp
Jennifer	Solomon
Stuart	Solomon
Robin	Spady
Jason	Speer
Heather	Starnes
Ben	Stearney
John	Stephens
Barbara	Sugg
Derek	Sunderman
Shilpi	Sunil Kumar
Al	Tamimi
Jason	Tanner
Len	Tao
Neeya	Toleman
Ben	Trowbridge
Lise	Trudeau
Marc	Tupler
Ronnie	Turner
Ryan	Tuter
Brad	Underwood
Alex	V
John	Varnell
vdoyle	vdoyle
Nicole	Wagner
Matk	Walker
Jodi	Walters
Krishada	Watson
Ken	Wei
Jeff	Wells

Kara	Whillock
Brett	White
Tim	Wilson
Derek	Wingfield
MICHAEL	WISE
C. Patrick	Woods
Jodi	Woods
Steve	Wright
Tiffany	Wu
Charles	Yeung