

Standards of Conduct ID: SOC 2014-1

Completed by: Dennis Reed

Date: March 11, 2014

Issue:

Potential non-public transmission information sent to market function employees.

Description:

At 12:43 pm on March 5, Transmission Operations entered a planned outage of the 45th St – Gordan Evans 138 kV line for the following week into the SPP outage system (“CROW”). Once the outage is submitted in CROW, SPP automatically posts the outage on its OASIS.

As part of the transmission outage, a temporary operating order was created at 5:11 pm on March 5 requiring the Murray Gill plant to run during the duration of the outage and sent to the generation dispatch operators. Although the generation dispatchers are not marketing function employees, several energy traders also receive the generation dispatch instructions and generation availability so the information can be included in the information submitted to the SPP energy market by the energy traders. The software which transmits the temporary operating order is supposed to remove any transmission information when it forwards the generation instructions to the marketing function employees, however, there was an error in the code and the information entered by transmission operations was sent to the marketing function. Once it was realized the information was sent, Bryan Taggart, Director, Generation System Operations immediately stopped use of the software tool by the operations staff and submitted a change request to Westar’s IT department to fix the issue. Mr. Taggart then reported the potential violation to Dennis Reed as the Standards of Conduct, Chief Compliance Officer on March 6, 2014.

Review:

Mr. Taggart supplied several screen shots of the Temporary Operating Order sent to the marketing function, the CROW submittal screen and the outage posting from the SPP OASIS. Based on the time stamps, the outage was entered into CROW and a little over four hours later the transmission information was inadvertently sent to the marketing function. In talking with Don Shipley, SPP Staff and it was found that all outage requests entered into CROW are updated on the OASIS every 10 minutes regardless of the status of the request. Although SPP does not show the date and time when an outage is posted, based on the information supplied by SPP, the 45th St – Gordon Evans 138 kV outage was posted on the OASIS by 1 pm, March 5th.

Impact:

None. By the time the temporary operating order was issued, the transmission outage information was already posted on the SPP OASIS so the outage was public information.

Resolution:

Based on Mr. Taggart's information, use of the software has been stopped until it can be fixed so that information entered by the transmission operator is not visible to the marketing function.

Dennis Reed
SOC, Chief Compliance Officer
Director, FERC Compliance