

Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy

**Smart Grid Curriculum Sub-Committee
Avista Utilities, 1411 E. Mission, Spokane, WA
Wednesday, March 16, 2011**

Attending:

Jay Pickett, Centralia City Light

Bob Topping, Chemeketa Community College

Shane Pacini, Avista

Dale Singer, Avista

Peter Dauenhauer, IncSys

Larry Kite, IncSys

Diane Quincy, Avista

Kevin Schneider, PNNL

Jeff Hammarlund, PSU

Karen DeVenaro, Seattle City Light

Jamie Krause, PNCECE

Barbara Hins-Turner, PNCECE

Yvonne Chase, PNCECE

Unable to Attend:

Mel Oyler

The March 16, 2011 meeting of the Smart Grid Curriculum Sub-Committee was called to order by co-chair Jay Pickett at 10:00 a.m. The Committee presented self-introductions.

Bob Topping provided an overview of the draft Subcommittee Charter. He explained the Charter is a tool that creates significance and direction for the Sub-committee. The charter gives a definition and creates a boundary for Committee activities. Once the Charter is signed-off by the Education Taskforce and Center of Excellence, the defining phase is complete.

Phase 2 will create a Process Map based on inputs and deliverables/outputs. Bob and Jay will be meeting in between formal group meetings to prepare the Process Map and distribute to the Committee by email. The full Committee will reconvene to do a cause and effect diagram. The next phase of the project is to conduct a Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (FMEA). From the FMEA comes an Action Plan—a critical path of what needs to be done that assigns roles and responsibilities.

Jay led a discussion of the Draft Charter by section:

Discussion of the Charge: Replace the term “acumen” with “platform.”

Sub-Committee Membership: Dale expressed a concern about the level of industry/craft experience on the committee. Jeff noted the Pacific NW Energy Efficiency Council represents an estimated 4000 people in the NW—it might be worth considering someone from the Energy Efficiency Council to serve on the Education Taskforce or Sub-committee.

Jay asked for opinions on adding another person to the Sub-committee. Set expectations for attendance.

Case for Action: Revised language

Smart Grid technologies offer a great potential to support a wide range of benefits, such as energy efficiency, demand response, distributed generation, integration of intermittent and renewable resources and energy storage. They also open up opportunities for new business models that enhance opportunities for partnerships among utilities, their customers and other stakeholders.

A case is being made for regional alignment of Skill Standards. Roles are not being redefined.

Purpose and Intent: The project focus is limited to the 10 targeted occupations identified in the original proposal. Five supply side and five demand side occupations. There will be further discussion on the academic level of training that will be developed under this project.

Scope: Discussion continued around the vetting and/or endorsement process. It was mentioned that there is disparity across the industry in job descriptions. The Committee agreed to examine the creation of reusable learning objects (modules) that industry could use for training as jobs change over time. Focus on outcomes, not linked to the job title. Some utilities are using Skill Standards. How can we make learning objects that are able to be nested into existing skill standards or skill profiles. Does the resulting activity meet the goals of the grant? Does it upskill a worker in one of the 10 occupations to be more smart grid enabled?

What are the checks and balances we have in place to avoid duplication? Create guidelines for developing a reusable learning object. Must be replicable, etc.

Curriculum Subcommittee Objectives: The Subcommittee objectives were reviewed for clarity and function. The Charter will be sent to Subcommittee members in “final draft” form for review and comment prior to the April 2011 meeting.

Other business: Development of Smart Grid 101 by General Physics. COE will match funds to develop a high level overview of SG101. Contract is moving forward. All partners will have access for their own LMS systems or through the project Web Portal. Dale will work with Craig at GPI to create the pilot. Jeff Hammarlund will help with review of the curriculum.

Logistics for next meeting: April 2011 – Seattle City Light; May 2011 – PSU. Jamie will work with Karen and Jeff on meeting logistics.

Barbara reminded everyone about the Summit – Smarter Grid Innovations 2011 to be held June 23rd and 24th at Satsop.

Meeting Deliverables:

1. Send out revised Charter – Jamie/Bob
2. Send out Curriculum design standards template. Jamie/COE
3. Send out DOE best choice for definition of Smart Grid (COE/Jeff Hammarlund)

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.