



Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **EIPC Planning Authorities Elect New Officers**

Today the electric system Planning Authorities that formed the Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative (EIPC) announced the election of Tim Ponseti, Vice President, Transmission Operations & Power Supply for the Tennessee Valley Authority, to be the Chairman of the EIPC Executive Committee for 2017. Stephen Rourke, Vice President, System Planning for ISO New England, was elected to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The EIPC is an organization formed by Eastern Interconnection Planning Authorities to perform interconnection-wide transmission analysis. The EIPC has successfully completed a U.S. Department of Energy-funded analysis of the electric transmission system in eastern North America looking 20 years into the future, as well as an analysis of the interface between the electric transmission system and the natural gas delivery system. The EIPC also develops transmission system models of combined regional transmission plans and performs scenario analysis on those combined models to identify stress points on the system and identify gaps in the combined plans. The Executive Committee provides strategic leadership to EIPC's continuing studies.

"I look forward to 2017 and the opportunity to continue EIPC's leadership as a resource for planning analyses and information on the Eastern Interconnection," said Ponseti. "The EIPC is a valuable platform for Planning Coordinators to work with the Department of Energy, state regulators, and the broader stakeholder community on issues facing the interconnection."

Ponseti is currently the Vice President of Transmission Operations & Power Supply (TOPS) for the Tennessee Valley Authority. Ponseti began his career with Louisiana Power & Light Co, a subsidiary of Entergy. Over the next 18 years, Ponseti held a variety of positions in Entergy's operations, planning, major accounts, and customer service departments. From 1997–2003 he served as the site manager for Entergy's System Operations Center. He joined TVA in 2003 as the General Manager of Transmission Policy, and later held a variety of senior positions in transmission operations and system planning before becoming the VP of TOPS in 2013. Over the past 13 years, Ponseti has served on numerous SERC Reliability Corporation and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) committees, including chair of the

SERC Engineering Committee from 2006-2008 and as a member of the original NERC Functional Model team. He is currently the Vice-Chair of the SERC Reliability Corporation Board of Directors and a member of the NERC MRC.

Rourke has served as Vice President, System Planning for ISO New England since 2006, having previously served as the company's Director, Reliability & Operations Services. A former manager of the Rhode Island-Eastern Massachusetts-Vermont Energy Control center (REMVEC) in Westborough, MA, and former manager of marketing operations for Northeast Utilities/Select Energy in Berlin, CT, Rourke has over 35 years of experience in operation and planning of the New England bulk power system and operation and administration of the region's wholesale power markets. He oversees ISO New England's regional and interregional planning process, including development of the biennial Regional System Plan, analysis of new transmission and generation projects for New England, implementation of the FERC-approved generator interconnection process, development of ISO findings for Transmission Cost Allocation, the execution of regional economic planning studies requested by stakeholders, and operation and support of the Forward Capacity Market in New England. Rourke previously served in support of NEPOOL as Chairman of both the Reliability and Transmission committees. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for Western New England University (WNEU) in Springfield, MA, and is a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

### **About the EIPC**

Formed under an agreement by 20 planning authorities from the Eastern United States and Canada, the EIPC has developed a "bottom-up" approach to transmission planning, starting with a roll-up of the existing grid expansion plans of electric system planning authorities in the Eastern Interconnection. The EIPC membership includes Alcoa Power Generating, Inc.; Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Florida, and Duke Energy Progress; Louisville Gas & Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company; Florida Power & Light Company; Georgia Transmission Corporation (An Electric Membership Corporation); ISO New England, Inc.; JEA; Midcontinent Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.; Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia; New York Independent System Operator, Inc.; PJM Interconnection; PowerSouth Energy Cooperative; South Carolina Electric & Gas Company; South Carolina Public Service Authority; Southern Company Services Inc., as agent for Alabama Power Company, Georgia Power Company, Gulf Power Company, and Mississippi Power Company; Southwest Power Pool, Inc.; and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

For more information, visit [eipconline.com](http://eipconline.com).