

Summary of Modeling WG Call #4
Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2010, 3:30-5:00 p.m. ET

Official/designated WG members in attendance: Wil Burns, Steve Chui, Erin Hogan, Doug Hurley, Mary Ellen Paravalos, Fred Plett, Matt Schuerger, Samir Succar, Ed Tatum, Dennis Sobieski, Joe Bryson (EPA), John Buechler (EIPC), Catherine Morris (Keystone)

1. Updates from other WGs

- Roll-Up WG: The WG's last call focused on the recently released Roll-up Procedure Manual. A webinar on the Roll-Up report will take place Oct. 4 2:00-4:00 PM ET. Additional written answers to remaining questions will be available soon.
- Scenario Planning WG: EISPC is having a meeting this week, and several components of the meeting are dedicated to scenario/futures development. The Scenario Planning WG has an in-person meeting Oct. 6-7.

2. Debrief of 9/28 CRA Q&A Session

- Overall, the group found the CRA Modeling webinar helpful, but given all of the documents released in the last week, there is a substantial amount of information to digest.
- The group members discussed some of their remaining concerns and information needed related to the CRA macroeconomic modeling (Task 5), including:
 - Load shape and potential impacts resulting from 2007 Security Act, which contains new, lower lumen-per-watt standards that will take effect in 2020.
 - A bubble-and-pipe diagram showing transfer limits in the CRA-defined regions. It was suggested that this could possibly be produced but it would be best for that to happen after the Roll-Up plan is completed.
 - Representation of transmission costs in the model, and whether some kind of proxy for transmission costs could be developed and incorporated.
 - Representation and incorporation of Canadian economic data in the model.
- John Buechler noted that the group should be mindful that there appear to be two different categories of issues: (i) model inputs that CRA has indicated are user definable; and (ii) issues that would require modification of the models themselves. He noted that the latter category is not within the scope, budget nor schedule of the EIPC award from the DOE.
- The group agreed that some of these issues merit further exploration and discussion by the WG and ultimately the SSC. Two members concerned about these issues volunteered to prepare a brief write-up detailing the issues. This drafted list of these and other considerations will be circulated to the WG for discussion on the next call (10/5 at 9 AM ET), and prior to the October SSC meeting to see if any of them should be brought up during this WG's presentation to the SSC.

3. Alignment of WG charges (Mary Ellen Paravalos)

- A representative from each of the three WGs conferred on a call last week and looked at the three charges side-by-side. Clarifications and changes resulting from this discussion included:

- The group agreed that production cost analysis (Task 3) best fits within the purview of the Modeling WG, so this item was removed from the draft charter for the Roll-Up WG.
- The Scenario Planning Working Group will define scenarios and drivers, and the Modeling WG will help translate those into detailed, quantitative inputs and assumptions. The two groups will work together to ensure that the values submitted to CRA are consistent with the intentions of the Scenario Planning WG.

4. Modeling Work Group's revised Work Plan (Mary Ellen Paravalos)

- The updated Work Plan, which is more closely aligned with the project calendar, was discussed.
- Another iteration will likely be needed to detail who will complete specific tasks, and what the due dates will be.
- John Buechler noted that EIPC and CRA both recommended that the group stay with the staggered (2 bundles of 4 futures) approach to the definition of futures and scenarios for analysis.
- Language will be added to outline an intermediate step involved in this WG's work: looking at the Scenario Planning WG's drivers and futures, matching them to CRA inputs, and developing plausible ranges of values.
- It was discussed that it may be helpful to have two sets of efforts in the short term:
 - 1) The GE MAPS model
 - 2) The CRA matrix of inputs, including summarizing the range of values that might be needed for various inputs and identifying any gaps.
 The group agreed to use the time directly after the October SSC meeting to begin detailed work with the CRA matrix. The group did not yet assign volunteers for the GE Maps work.

5. Environmental Data Task Force inputs

- Andy Oliver had drafted a rationale and proposed scope of work for this task force, but she wasn't on the call to discuss it in detail. Other WG members from the NGO sector briefly described the document, but it was decided that it would be better to address this at a later date (preferably during the next WG call on Tuesday 10/5, 9 AM ET).
 - Two key items to discuss – who would this task force report to, and what resources they would be requesting from EIPC.
 - John Buechler noted that, while consideration could be given to such inputs if this was desired by the SSC, performing additional analysis to develop the inputs or modifications to the models to accommodate them was outside the scope of the EIPC project.
- This drafted rationale and scope of work has been submitted to the SSC.
 - Erin Hogan expressed concern with the process. She felt that this information should have been discussed at the Modeling WG prior to sending it directly to the SSC since the Environmental Task Force is currently a sub-group of the Modeling WG.

6. Upcoming SSC meeting

- Several members expressed an interest in meeting in-person immediately following the SSC meeting on the afternoon of the 14th
- WG will present the following to the SSC at the upcoming meeting:
 - Charge and work plan
 - List of concerns/issues with the model

7. Next Steps

- The WG will hold its next call Tuesday, October 5 at 9 a.m. The agenda will include:
 - Preparations for SSC meeting
 - Proposed Environmental Data Task Force
 - Concerns with/ limitations of CRA model to discuss with the SSC
- In the meantime, WG members who volunteered to draft the list of other considerations with regard to the CRA macroeconomic modeling will work to summarize and circulate these before the call
- Keystone will reserve a room with a conference call line and send out a Doodle poll to assess WG members' availability for the proposed post-SSC WG meeting