

# Munro Scheduling Center

TIPSC

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# Munro Scheduling Center

## Overview

- To ensure we are prepared to meet the region's need during a disaster we need to strengthen our operational capabilities by developing fully redundant and geographically separated scheduling centers in addition to control centers.
- We propose to enhance our current dispatch capabilities located east of the Cascades by adding:
  - Scheduling capabilities
  - Data center space for our critical operations systems
  - Our proposal is consistent with capabilities at other utilities, and once implemented will allow us to maintain system reliability and continue transmission commercial operations during an emergency.

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## Why is an improved capability to continue/restore transmission scheduling operations necessary?

- Recent events underscore the need to continue operations for ensuring power supplies:
  - March 2011 Japan earthquake
  - September 2011 California / Arizona / NW Mexico blackout
  - Probability of a major earthquake in the Northwest is predicted at 37% within the next 50 years.
  - Events which may interrupt BPA's current scheduling operations include:
    - Targeted local event impacting only BPA facilities (e.g. terrorism, infrastructure failure).
    - Localized event impacting Portland metro area or major regional event.
- BPA needs to continue to provide service to our utility partners and their customers during a local or regional emergency. A strategy to do this includes:
  - Appropriate workspace; Skilled staff; Redundant IT systems

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## What is the proposed facility BPA is building outside of Spokane?

- A new facility geographically separate from the Portland metro area:
  - 25K square feet.
  - System redundancy for critical operational systems.
  - Built on existing BPA property.
  - Construction will start in April 2013 and the facility will be ready for use in April 2014.
  - Proposed facility is foundational as it provides:
    - Appropriate workspace configured to meet operational needs
    - Permanent workplace for 24/7 transmission real-time schedulers, IT specialists, and NERC CIP security personnel
    - Secure and permanent connections to BPA proprietary networks
    - Emergency workspace for 100+ critical staff

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## What is the Transmission Scheduling Staffing Strategy?

- Plan to have permanent real-time schedulers at the Dittmer scheduling operation and the Munro Scheduling Center.
- We are in the early stages of testing operations between 2 locations and expect that there will be 12 schedulers, 3 of which are team lead schedulers, permanently assigned to each location.
- We are recruiting new real-time schedulers with a permanent duty station at Munro.
- Training of the new staff will take place at over the next year and a half at Dittmer. The average training period for an inexperienced scheduler is 9 – 12 months.
- Our strategy includes having seasoned schedulers at each location. This will involve asking for volunteers, and possibly reassigning existing schedulers, to work at the Munro Scheduling Center.

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## **When will Transmission Scheduling be operational from both locations?**

- The plan is to begin permanent staffing at the Munro Scheduling Center in October 2014.

## **What are the FY 2013 – FY 2015 IPR Scheduling Program costs associated with staffing real-time scheduling at the Munro Scheduling Center?**

- Transmission Marketing and Sales has identified anticipated costs for achieving the operation of the real-time scheduling function at the Munro Scheduling Center. The IPR Scheduling Program budget increased by approximately \$.5 million in FY 2013, \$1.0 million in FY 2014 and \$1.0 million in FY 2015 to fund Munro Scheduling Center real-time scheduling staffing and relocation costs.