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## WEST AFRICA POWER POOL OBSERVATION CENTER STAFF LEARNS ABOUT U.S. POWER SYSTEM OPERATIONS, MARKETS AND RELIABILITY

How to operate power pools, markets and ensure reliability were the topics of the final US Agency for International Development / West Africa Regional Program (USAID/WARP) – US Energy Association (USEA) executive exchange of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP), September 3-13, 2007.



The WAPP delegates meet with Conectiv Energy in Newark, Delaware

Through interactive presentations, four senior staff members of the WAPP Information and Coordination Center gained a new understanding of market operations, power pool operations, reliability standards, information technology, stakeholder interaction, and how regional transmission operators manage transmission systems independently of their owners. This information complimented the group’s existing expertise in system operations, and allowed them to formulate their future role as the transmission grid expands and the power market develops in West Africa.



Mamadou Sylla (center) and Oumar Diaw (right) learn about reliability standards at the NERC Operations Committee meeting

### Participants

The following members of the WAPP staff participated in the exchange: Babatunde Adeyemo, Director Information & Coordination Center; Mamadou Sylla, Database and Information System Program Officer; Oumar Diaw, Market Program Officer; and Honoré Sanou, System Operation Officer.

The WAPP staff's understanding of U.S. power pools and energy markets was significantly enhanced through interaction with their U.S. counterparts at the following organizations: the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's market monitoring center, PJM Interconnection, Conectiv Energy, Delmarva Power, Consolidated Edison, the New England Independent System Operator, and the operations committee of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

### Results

The WAPP team plans to adopt the Control Center Data Requirements from PJM, PJM's tariff, and to review the PJM membership agreement for any additional information that may be included in the agreement WAPP already adopted from Southwest Power



The WAPP delegates meet with Consolidated Edison in New York

Pool through the USAID/WARP-USEA partnership program. The WAPP team was also particularly interested in adopting the fuel adjustment clause to rates, as explained by PJM member Conectiv Energy (the merchant energy firm of Pepco Holdings, inc.).

As the WAPP observation center eventually moves into operating a marketplace, the team was able to learn about software programs and the particular personnel positions and responsibilities of the operations floor of New England ISO. The WAPP team also plans to model a 10-year regional system plan after New England ISO's plan, which is updated annually. New England ISO's operating standards were also shared with WAPP, which plans to develop its own standards with reference to these.



The delegates tour the market operations center of Conectiv Energy

Prior to this exchange, WAPP adopted its membership agreement, including financial obligations, based on involvement with the Southwest Power Pool in Arkansas, arranged through the USAID/WARP – USEA exchange program. WAPP's principle exposure to transmission regulation, market operations, tariffs, member agreements and relations, and communications throughout a power pool have all been through the USAID/WARP-USEA program, which for the past six years has taken every member utility director and power pool staff liaison on exchange visits with US RTOs and

ISOs (the closest US counterpart to a power pool), and allowed for power pool regulatory and operations experts to participate in WAPP meetings.

### Next Steps

This was the final program of the USAID/WARP – USEA executive exchange program for WAPP. WAPP intends to implement operational procedures and structural changes based on what it learned during the exchange program. The group will also maintain informal contact with the US partners it met through the program, and hopes to be able to spend more detailed time with RTOs and ISOs in the U.S. as it grows and develops.