2014 NASPI AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Department of Energy Deputy Assistant Secretary David Ortiz and NASPI Project Manager Alison Silverstein recognized significant contributors and accomplishments within the synchrophasor community on October 22, 2014, announcing the new 2014 NASPI Awards.

The NASPI Awards were created to recognize some of the individuals and organizations whose work has advanced the deployment and value realization of synchrophasor technology:

- NASPI Volunteer of the Year Award -- Vahid Madani, Pacific Gas & Electric -- Since 2007, Vahid Madani has provided exceptional leadership and service to the synchrophasor community, particularly in the areas of standards development, converting innovative synchronized measurement ideas into practice, and using PG&E's proof-of-concept laboratory to help the industry implement synchrophasor technology more smoothly.

- NASPI Control Room Solutions Task Team Most Valuable Player Award -- Jim Kleitsch, American Transmission Company -- Jim Kleitsch has made significant contributions to the synchrophasor community in developing numerous operations support uses for synchrophasor technology, and to NASPI's Control Room Solutions Task Team by contributing examples to turn the video event library into a useful reality and training tool.

- NASPI Data & Network Management Task Team Most Valuable Player Award -- Bob Braden, USC Viterbi School of Engineering Information Sciences Institute, -- Bob has led the DNMTT survey team in attempting to determine current synchrophasor communications network characteristics and evolving needs, and leading inquiry into how information technology advances can be applied to benefit synchrophasor data networks and analysis.

- NASPI Engineering Applications Task Team Most Valuable Player Award -- Kyle Thomas, Dominion Virginia Power -- Kyle has led Dominion's synchrophasor team in extensive use of PMU technology for on-line and off-line analysis, developing numerous tools for data collection and analysis, ensuring high data availability, and sharing his and Dominion's insights and accomplishments with the rest of the synchrophasor community.

- NASPI Performance Requirements, Verification & Standards Task Team Most Valuable Player Award -- Tony Weekes, Manitoba Hydro -- Tony Weekes has

been a leader in sharing end-user experience with synchrophasor devices and applications to advance PMU performance and standardization.

- NASPI Outstanding Student of the Year (Graduate level) -- Scott Ghiocel, PhD. Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute -- Scott has developed advanced voltage stability and synchrophasor-based state estimation applications and applied these new analytical tools to real-world bulk electrical systems.

- NASPI Outstanding Student of the Year (Undergraduate level) -- Micah Till, University of Tennessee Knoxville -- Micah developed an operator training simulator by paring a real-time simulation engine and a real-time visualization tool representing a very large power system as seen through PMUs. This real-time simulator is being used by operators and engineers to perform "what-if" scenarios in a real-time environment.

- NASPI Outstanding Utility of the Year -- Bonneville Power Administration -- Since 1996, BPA has been a pioneer in conceptualizing, developing, adopting and championing the use of synchrophasor technology for greater security and economy on the bulk power system. BPA's staff have been visionary about synchrophasor technology use, effective in technology deployment, and generous as leaders and teachers to the utility community.

- NASPI Outstanding Utility of the Year -- Dominion Virginia Power -- Dominion Virginia Power's synchrophasor team deployed an excellent synchrophasor system and has been both dogged and creative in developing new insights and applications that use phasor data for on-line and off-line uses that benefit the mid-Atlantic grid and the entire North American synchrophasor community.

Ortiz congratulated the awardees, commenting, "Looking across the creativity, breadth and diversity of the accomplishments that earned these awards, it is easy to see why synchrophasor technology is maturing so rapidly."