

Scope

System Protection and Control Working Group

Purpose

The purpose of the System Protection and Control Working Group (SPCWG), a working group of the Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC), is to promote the reliable and efficient operation of the North American power system through technical excellence in protection and control system design, coordination, and practices.

Functions

The SPCWG accomplishes its goals by performing the following:

- Provide subject matter expertise for NERC Reliability Standards and technical guidelines, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Protection and control systems, including local and wide area applications, and synchrophasor applications.
 - Remedial Action Schemes (RAS).
 - Power system monitoring.
- Provide subject matter expertise upon request, on Protection System operations to the ERO Enterprise.
- Provide technical support to the NERC Event Analysis Program, including input and development of any lessons learned as needed from the Event Analysis Subcommittee (EAS).
- Provide technical support in the development of Implementation Guidance.
- Serve as the liaison to the IEEE Power and Energy Society (PES) committees associated with system protection and their associated subcommittees and working groups, for collaborative promotion of technical excellence in system protection.
- Develop and maintain a NERC technical reference library on system protection and control.
- Other protection and control activities as determined by the SPCWG.

Deliverables

- White Papers: Documents that explore technical facets of topics, often making recommendations for further action. They are written by the SPCWG on topics of industry interest or at the request of the RSTC.
- Technical Reference Documents and Technical Reports: Documents that serve as a reference for the electric utility industry or for NERC stakeholders regarding a specific topic of interest. These deliverables document industry practices or technical concepts at the time of publication and may be updated as deemed necessary by the SPCWG or by recommendation of the RSTC.
- Standards Authorization Request (SAR): A form used to document the scope and reliability benefit of a proposed project for one or more new or modified Reliability Standards or definitions or the benefit of retiring one or more approved Reliability Standards. The SPCWG may, at the direction of the RSTC or on its

initiative, review and provide feedback for a SAR to the RSTC to support:

- the initial vetting of technical material, and
- A sound technical justification.
- Reliability Guidelines: Documents that suggest approaches or behavior in each technical area for the purpose of improving reliability. Reliability Guidelines are not binding norms nor mandatory requirements. Reliability Guidelines may be adopted by a responsible entity in accordance with its own facts and circumstances.
- Implementation Guidance: Documents providing examples or approaches for registered entities to comply with standard requirements. The RSTC is designated by the ERO Enterprise as a pre-qualified organization for vetting Implementation Guidance in accordance with NERC Board-approved Compliance Guidance Policy. Implementation Guidance endorsed by the RSTC can be submitted to the ERO Enterprise for endorsement, allowing for its use in Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) activities.
- Other products as requested/assigned by RSTC.

Reporting

The SPCWG reports to the RSTC and shall maintain communications with other groups as necessary about pertinent technical protection and control related issues.

Membership

General

The SPCWG shall have sufficient expertise and diversity to be able to speak knowledgeably for the industry and provide meaningful and useful guidance to assist the industry in the carrying out of its reliability responsibilities. NERC sector membership balance resides with the parent committee (RSTC), allowing the working group to focus on the expertise required to carry out its functions.

The SPCWG will generally be comprised of representatives as follows:

- 12 – 2 from each Regional Entity (MRO, NPCC, RF, SERC, Texas RE, WECC)
- 1 – NERC technical lead
 - 1 – NERC facilitator (non-voting)
- 3 – Federal/Provincial Utility
- 2 – Investor-owned Utility
- 2 – Cooperatives
- 8 – Industry subject matter experts (SME)
 - Additional non-voting SMEs as determined by the SPCWG

NERC will provide a person in the Facilitator (non-voting) and technical lead (voting) roles. These roles may be filled by the same person. The NERC Facilitator will maintain the SPCWG roster and email list of members. They will also maintain an email list of observers that have requested to be added to the mailing list.

All members are voting members unless otherwise noted above. Full membership is desired but not necessary.

Officers

The SPCWG will have two officers – one chair and one vice-chair. The term begins on 1 January of the first year of the term and runs through 31 December of the second year of the term. The vice chair will succeed to the chair. Per the RSTC Charter, officers of subordinate groups are appointed by the chair of the RSTC.

Officers shall be selected from the SPCWG membership as follows:

- The chair solicits nominations for vice-chair through an open nomination process. Self-nominations are permitted.
- The SPCWG will elect the vice chair for recommendation to the RSTC.
- The elected vice-chair is presented to the RSTC with a request for appointment.
- Unless approved by the RSTC, no individual may serve more than one term as vice chair and one term as chair.

Chair Duties

The chair will direct and provide general supervision of SPCWG activities, including the following:

- Coordinate the scheduling of all meetings, including approval of meeting duration and location.
- Develop agendas and rule on any deviation, addition, or deletion from a published agenda.
- Preside at and manage meetings, including the nature and length of discussion, recognition of speakers, motions, and voting.
- Act as spokesperson for the SPCWG at forums inside and outside of NERC.
- Attend meetings of the RSTC when necessary to report on SPCWG activities.

Vice Chair Duties

The vice chair will assume the responsibilities of the chair under the following conditions:

- At the discretion of the chair (for brief periods of time).
- When the chair is absent or temporarily unable to perform the chair's duties.
- When the chair is permanently unable to perform the duties of the chair. In the case of a permanent change, the vice chair will be elevated to chair and complete the term of the outgoing chair and then continue as chair for the term for which they were elected. A new vice chair will be elected to complete the term of the elevated vice chair and the term they were elected.
- If the vice chair leaves prior to their elevation to the chair, a new vice chair shall be elected to complete the remainder of the outgoing vice-chair's term and then succeed the outgoing chair.

Executive Committee

An Executive Committee consisting of the SPCWG chair and vice chair, NERC Facilitator, and NERC technical lead, and RSTC Sponsor, will meet to schedule meetings and set the agenda for these meetings.

Membership General Requirements

SPCWG membership requirements are focused on expertise related to BES system protection and control. Members are expected to have five or more years of professional power system protection experience or other desired area of technical expertise. New Members will be vetted for their requisite knowledge by providing the SPCWG membership with a resume of their experience prior to acceptance by the SPCWG membership. Acceptance of new members will be conducted by a voting-member only executive session with oversight from the NERC facilitator.

Membership Commitment and Participation

SPCWG members must be committed to their service on the working group. Members must prepare for and actively participate in all working group meetings in person or on conference calls. As needed, members must also write and review draft reports, serve on SAR and standard drafting teams if selected, and bring issues to their Regional Entities, trade organizations, and utilities for further discussion and insight.

Regular attendance at calls and meetings is expected. Members unable to actively participate should notify the SPCWG leadership. If a member fails to attend three consecutive meetings, the Chair may send a letter requesting an explanation. If no response is received within 30 days, it will be assumed that the participant is no longer able or interested in being a member. Members unable to actively participate should be removed from the active roster and, if necessary, a replacement found.

Subgroups

The SPCWG may form smaller groups and document development teams as necessary without RSTC approval. The RSTC maintains authority over creation of subcommittees, working groups, and task forces per the RSTC Charter. The working group must review the progress of its subgroups at least annually and decide to either continue or disband these groups as needed. Membership in the subgroups may consist of non-SPCWG members to allow for expertise in specific areas. Such groups are usually ad-hoc and are not expected to exist after completing their assignments. Subgroup and document development team leads (or delegates) are expected to attend the regular working group meetings to report on assignments and subgroup activity.

Guests and Observers

SPCWG meetings are open to members and guests. Individuals can request to be added to the SCWG mailing list.

Work Products and Processes

The SPCWG will follow the processes directed by the RSTC in the development and publication of reports, guidelines, and other documents. Unless directed otherwise by the SPCWG executive committee, document content will be approved by consensus of the SPCWG voting members.

Meeting Procedures

General

The SPCWG follows the meeting procedures explained in the following:

- NERC Antitrust Compliance Guideline¹
- The participant conduct policy² applicable to the NERC RSTC and its subgroups

¹ https://www.nerc.com/comm/PCGC/Documents/NERC_Antitrust_Compliance_Guidelines.pdf

² https://www.nerc.com/comm/PCGC/Documents/NERC_Participant_Conduct_Policy.pdf

- Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised as additional guidance³

Scheduled Meetings

The SPCWG normally conducts four to six open meetings per year, more if necessary, depending on workload. Meeting dates will be posted to the NERC website.

³ <https://www.nerc.com/AboutNERC/Pages/Rules-of-Procedure.aspx>