

# Implementation Plan for the Revised Definition of “Special Protection System”

Project 2010-05.3 – Remedial Action Scheme (RAS)

## Requested Approval

- Definition of “Special Protection System”

## Requested Retirement

- Existing definition of “Special Protection System”

## Background

In Order No. 693, the Commission approved, among other things, the Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards (“NERC Glossary”), which included NERC’s currently effective definitions of Special Protection System and Remedial Action Scheme. The NERC Glossary currently defines a Special Protection System as:

An automatic protection system designed to detect abnormal or predetermined system conditions, and take corrective actions other than and/or in addition to the isolation of faulted components to maintain system reliability. Such action may include changes in demand, generation (MW and Mvar), or system configuration to maintain system stability, acceptable voltage, or power flows. An SPS does not include (a) underfrequency or undervoltage load shedding or (b) fault conditions that must be isolated or (c) out-of-step relaying (not designed as an integral part of an SPS). Also called Remedial Action Scheme.

The currently effective NERC Glossary definition for “Remedial Action Scheme” is a cross-reference to the definition of Special Protection System and reads: “See ‘Special Protection System.’” This internal cross-reference from Remedial Action Scheme to Special Protection System in lieu of a separate definition was developed to ensure that the terms are used interchangeably even where entities or an interconnection uses one term versus the other.

On February 3, 2015, NERC submitted a petition for approval of a revised definition of “Remedial Action Scheme” developed by the standard drafting team Project 2010-05.2 (SPS SDT). As explained in the petition, “[t]he defined terms ‘Special Protection System’ and ‘Remedial Action Scheme’ are currently used interchangeably throughout the NERC Regions and in various Reliability Standards, including prior versions of the Proposed Reliability Standards.” In developing a solution for this inconsistency, the SPS SDT revised the definition of Remedial Action Scheme to incorporate a higher level of specificity for schemes that are appropriately considered Remedial Action Schemes, to provide more consistent identification of Remedial Action Schemes across the NERC Regions, and to state the relationship between Protection Systems and Remedial Action Schemes. NERC also submitted revisions to various

Reliability Standards by replacing the term “Special Protection System” with the newly revised “Remedial Action Scheme.” As NERC stated, the “use of only one term in the NERC Reliability Standards will ensure proper identification of these systems and application of related Reliability Standards.”

On June 18, 2015, the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPR”) proposing to accept the revisions to the RAS definition and associated standards, and on November 19, 2015, the Commission issued a Final Order approving the RAS definition and associated standards.

### **General Considerations**

The petition for revisions to the Definition of “Remedial Action Scheme” and related Reliability Standards also anticipated revision of the definition of “Special Protection System” to cross-reference the newly revised definition of “Remedial Action Scheme.” Coordination of the two terms was completed by the SPS SDT in this phase of the Project (Project 2010-05.3) and will implement the new definition of “Special Protection System” simultaneously with the effective date of the revised definition for “Remedial Action Scheme.” By assigning simultaneous effective dates of the revised definition of “Special Protection System” and “Remedial Action Scheme,” all references to either term in NERC or Regional Entity documents will refer to the same NERC Glossary definition.

### **Effective Dates**

Where approval by an applicable governmental authority is required, the revised definition of Special Protection System shall become effective on the later of the effective date of the applicable governmental authority’s order approving the revised definition of Special Protection System or the effective date of the revised definition of Remedial Action Scheme approved by the Commission on November 19, 2015.

Where approval by an applicable governmental authority is not required, the revised definition of Special Protection System shall become effective on the later of the day that it is adopted by the NERC Board of Trustees, or as otherwise provided for in that jurisdiction, or the effective date of the revised definition of Remedial Action Scheme as approved by the Commission on November 19, 2015.

### **Retirement**

The currently effective definition of Special Protection System shall be retired immediately prior to the effective date of the revised definition of Special Protection System in the particular jurisdiction in which the definition is becoming effective.