

**Consideration of Comments on Initial Ballot — Interpretation of TOP-002-2a —Normal Operations Planning, Requirement R10 for the FMPP (Project 2009-27)**

**Summary Consideration:** An initial ballot was conducted from February 10-22, 2010 and achieved a quorum and a weighted segment approval of 90.82%. Based on balloter comments the drafting team made the following clarifying edits to the interpretation:

The Balancing Authority does not possess the Bulk Electric System information necessary to manage transmission flows (MW, MVAR or Ampere) or voltage. Therefore, the Balancing Authority must ~~communicate with and~~ follow the directions of the Transmission Operator to meet all SOLs and IROLs.

As the revisions identified above are minor and do not change the scope or intent of the interpretation, the team is moving the interpretation forward to a recirculation ballot.

If you feel that the drafting team overlooked your comments, please let us know immediately. Our goal is to give every comment serious consideration in this process. If you feel there has been an error or omission, you can contact the Vice President and Director of Standards, Herbert Schrayshuen, at 609-452-8060 or at herb.schrayshuen@nerc.net. In addition, there is a NERC Reliability Standards Appeals Process.<sup>1</sup>

Voter	Entity	Segment	Vote	Comment
Robert Martinko	FirstEnergy Energy Delivery	1	Affirmative	FirstEnergy appreciates the work of the NERC standards interpretation team and is voting AFFIRMATIVE to the response provided. However, we believe the response could be better clarified by changing the latter part of the second sentence that currently reads " . . . to manage transmission flows." to state " . . . to manage transmission flows (MW, MVAR or Ampere) or voltage."
Kevin Querry	FirstEnergy Solutions	3	Affirmative	
Douglas Hohlbaugh	Ohio Edison Company	4	Affirmative	
Kenneth Dresner	FirstEnergy Solutions	5	Affirmative	
Mark S Travaglianti	FirstEnergy Solutions	6	Affirmative	

<sup>1</sup> The appeals process is in the Reliability Standards Development Procedure: [http://www.nerc.com/files/RSDP\\_V6\\_1\\_12Mar07.pdf](http://www.nerc.com/files/RSDP_V6_1_12Mar07.pdf).

Voter	Entity	Segment	Vote	Comment
<p><b>Response: The SDT thanks you for your comment and has incorporated your suggestion. The revised sentence reads: The Balancing Authority does not possess the Bulk Electric System information necessary to manage transmission flows (MW, MVAR or Ampere) or voltage.</b></p>				
Charles H Yeung	Southwest Power Pool	2	Affirmative	<p>NERC must clarify that the purpose for a "Request for Interpretation" is to clarify language in the approved standard and not to answer standards applicability questions. We believe the question posed by the requestor could have been answered through communications with between entity and the RE or the entity and NERC staff. The industry should not have to expend resources to review and vote on requests that can be answered through other means.</p>
<p><b>Response: The SDT thanks you and agrees with your comment. This issue has been identified and will be presented to the Standards Committee.</b></p>				
Kim Warren	Independent Electricity System Operator	2	Affirmative	<p>The IESO is concerned that in recent months, there have been an increasing number of simplistic interpretations being put in front of the entire balloting body. In our view, some of the inquiries could have been addressed via other avenues than the formal interpretation process. We suggest that NERC expeditiously develop an alternative approach, similar to the Information Request Program established by the FRCC, to field industry questions before they rise up to the formal interpretation request level. Industry participants should be encouraged to use other available resources and avenues instead of or before proceeding to a formal interpretation process to obtain understanding of standard applicability and compliance.</p>
<p><b>Response: The SDT thanks you and agrees with your comment. This issue has been identified and will be presented to the Standards Committee.</b></p>				
Kent Saathoff	Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc.	10	Negative	<p>The requirement in R10 is that BAs and TOPs have plans that meet all SOLs and IROLs. The request asks if BAs are required to maintain load-supply balance under the direction of the TOPs meeting SOLs and IROLs. The interpretation answers the question in the affirmative, stating the BA must communicate with and follow the directions of the TOP to meet all SOLs and IROLs. There are several problems with the interpretation. The interpretation reads obligations into the requirement that are not addressed in the requirement. The language of R10 is clear - the BA shall plan to meet SOLs and IROLs. This establishes what must be done, but does not specify how the BA should plan to meet those limits. Clearly a BA would be required to follow the directions of a TOP (and RC) with respect to operation of the transmission system, but that obligation is not what is prescribed under this requirement. The interpretation also uses the NERC Glossary of Terms to support its conclusions. Specifically, the interpretation team notes that, based on the definition, the BA cannot manage</p>

Voter	Entity	Segment	Vote	Comment
				transmission flows because the general roles of the BA described in the definition do not provide access to the necessary information. The Glossary establishes very high-level definitions that generally describe terms. These general definitions should not be used to interpret requirements that prescribe specific actions/obligations. In this case, the language in the requirement is clear - the BA is obligated to develop a plan. There are no prescriptions with respect to the details of the plan.
<p><b>Response: The SDT agrees. As we said – “the Balancing Authority must follow the directions of the TOP...” There is no suggestion of ‘how’ to follow those directions. With regards to the interpretation itself, the SDT must adhere to the Draft Guidelines for Developing a Response to Requests for Interpretation, the following is an excerpted guideline:</b></p> <p>With a clear understanding of the standard’s purpose and the technical engineering approach that best serves reliability, the team must judge whether the standard as written can be interpreted consistent with these interests using the following principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The interpretation cannot change the requirement or standard. That is, the interpretation cannot expand the scope of the requirement beyond the language in the requirement.</li> <li>b. The interpretation must address the question posed or the team must explain why it cannot address the question.</li> <li>c. The interpretation drafting team has full latitude to respond to a question using other reliability standards requirements that were not identified specifically in the request if that information addresses the issue.</li> <li>d. The interpretation itself must add clarity and not be ambiguous or subject to interpretation.</li> <li>e. The interpretation should address the intent of the requirement and the best interest of reliability.</li> </ol> <p>The interpretation of the requirement, which if implemented by the applicable entities, will provide for a reliable bulk power system, consistent with good utility practice and the public interest. This intends that the interpretation will not lower the current level of compliance to the requirement by the applicable entities.</p>				
Henry Ernst-Jr	Duke Energy Carolina	3	Negative	We believe that the drafting team should focus on the coordination that must take place between the BA and TOP. This Interpretation should be modified as follows: “The BA is responsible for integrating resource planning ahead of time, in coordination with its associated TOP, to address SOLs and IROLs that the TOP has identified in the current planning timeframe. The BA also maintains load-generation balance within the BA Area and supports interconnection frequency in real time. The BA does not possess the Bulk Electric System information necessary to manage transmission flows. Therefore the BA must coordinate with and follow the directions of the TOP to meet all SOLs and IROLs.”

Voter	Entity	Segment	Vote	Comment
<b>Response: The SDT thanks you for your comment. The suggested revision expands on the requirement and was not adopted.</b>				
Gregory L Pieper	Xcel Energy, Inc.	1	Negative	We suggest the appropriate language for the interpretation should be "To this end and in accordance with NERC Reliability Standards BAL-001-0.1a and BAL-002-0, Balancing Authorities are required to meet the requirements of these standards." This would eliminate ambiguities between the three standards.
<b>Response: The SDT thanks you for your comment. Nothing in this interpretation allows or excuses a Balancing Authority from complying with NERC Reliability Standards BAL-001-0.1a and BAL-002-0.</b>				
Anthony Jankowski	Wisconsin Energy Corp.	4	Negative	What required communication is being mentioned in the sentence "Therefore, the Balancing authority must communicate with and follow the directions of the Transmission Operator to meet all SOLs and IROLs."? Is this communication initiated by the BA? Before, during, or after the SOL or IROL (or all three)? Communication requirements are in NERC Standard COM-001. They are not clarifying here. Recommend removing the phrase "communicating with and".
<b>Response: The SDT thanks you for your comment and has incorporated your suggestion. The revised sentence reads: "Therefore, the Balancing Authority must follow the directions of the Transmission Operator to meet all SOLs and IROLs."</b>				