

Standards Announcement Recirculation Ballot Window Open September 1–10, 2009

Now available at: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

Cyber Security — Order 706B Nuclear Plant Implementation Plan

A recirculation ballot window for an implementation plan for Version 1 critical infrastructure protection (CIP) Reliability Standards CIP-002-1 through CIP-009-1 for Nuclear Power Plants is now open **until 8 p.m. EDT on September 10, 2009**.

Instructions

Members of the ballot pool associated with this project may log in and submit their votes from the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

Recirculation Ballot Process

The Standards Committee encourages all members of the ballot pool to review the consideration of comments submitted with the initial ballots. In the recirculation ballot, votes are counted by exception only — if a ballot pool member does not submit a revision to that member’s original vote, the vote remains the same as in the first ballot. Members of the ballot pool may:

- Reconsider and change their vote from the first ballot.
- Vote in the second ballot even if they did not vote on the first ballot.
- Take no action if they do not want to change their original vote.

Next Steps

Voting results will be posted and announced after the ballot window closes.

Project Background

On January 18, 2008, FERC (or “Commission”) issued Order No. 706 that approved Version 1 of the CIP Reliability Standards: CIP-002-1 through CIP-009-1. On March 19, 2009, the Commission issued clarifying Order No. 706-B that clarified “the facilities within a nuclear generation plant in the United States that are not regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission are subject to compliance with the eight mandatory “CIP” Reliability Standards approved in Commission Order No. 706.” However, in the ensuing discussion regarding the implementation timeframe for the nuclear power plants to comply with the CIP standards, the Commission noted in ¶59 that,

“[i]t is not appropriate to dictate the schedule contained in Table 3 of NERC’s Implementation Plan, i.e., a December 2010 deadline for auditable compliance, for nuclear power plants to comply with the CIP Reliability Standards. Instead of requiring nuclear power plants to implement the CIP Reliability Standards on a fixed schedule at this time, we agree to allow more flexibility.

Rather than the Commission setting an implementation schedule, we agree with commenters that the ERO should develop an appropriate schedule after providing for stakeholder input. Accordingly, we direct the ERO to engage in a stakeholder process to develop a more appropriate timeframe for nuclear power plants' full compliance with CIP Reliability Standards. Further, we direct NERC to submit, within 180 days of the date of issuance of this order, a compliance filing that sets forth a proposed implementation schedule.”

This project addresses the development of the implementation plan specific for nuclear power plants. The draft plan was drafted by members of the original Version 1 Cyber Security Drafting Team with specific outreach to nuclear power plant owners and operators to ensure their interests were fairly represented.

Project page:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Cyber_Security_Order706B_Nuclear_Plant_Implementation_Plan.html

Special Notes for This Project

In order to be responsive to the September 15, 2009 filing deadline and as a reflection of the significant involvement of the nuclear community in the development of this proposal, the NERC Standards Committee approved the team to shorten the comment period and hold the comment period at the same time as the pre-ballot review period, and if necessary, offer changes to the proposal based on the comments received before proceeding to ballot. The comment period and pre-ballot review ended on August 14, 2009. The drafting team modified the implementation plan based on stakeholder input; the two significant revisions are listed below:

1. Included CIP-006-1 on the list of standards potentially requiring an outage to implement
2. Adjusted the implementation timeframe for refueling outages to six months beyond the first refueling outage that is at least 18 months following the FERC effective date

Standards Development Process

The [Reliability Standards Development Procedure](#) contains all the procedures governing the standards development process. The success of the NERC standards development process depends on stakeholder participation. We extend our thanks to all those who participate.

*For more information or assistance,
please contact Shaun Streeter at shaun.streeter@nerc.net or at 609.452.8060.*