

**NERC**

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

# Definition of Bulk Electric System

Industry Webinar: Bulk Electric System Guidance Document

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**RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY**



- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Standard Drafting Team Activities:
  - Phase 2
- Project Milestones
- Guidance Document
- Question and Answer

- Issued on June 22, 2012
  - Commission is proposing to approve:
    - Modifications to the definition of Bulk Electric System (BES)
    - Revisions to the Rules of Procedure (BES Exception Process)
    - Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request
    - Proposed Implementation Plan
  - Commission asked for comments on:
    - Application of the 'core' definition, inclusions and exclusions
    - Exception Process

- Phase 2:
  - Technical Justification
    - Planning Committee Executive Committee – Bright-line voltage criteria
    - Planning Committee Reliability Assessment Subcommittee – Generation thresholds
    - Planning Committee Systems Analysis and Modeling Subcommittee – Reactive resource thresholds & local network flow criteria
  - Definition Clarification
  - ERO Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria Coordination

- NERC Planning Committee Groups
  - Technical Justification Analysis
    - *Deliverable target date: December 2012*
- Definition of Bulk Electric System (DBES) Standard Drafting Team (SDT)
  - Develop appropriate revisions to the definition based on the Technical Justification Analysis Documents
    - *45-day Concurrent Posting: 1Q13*

**The purpose of this document is to assist the industry with the application of the revised definition.**

- Examples are provided where appropriate but should not be considered as all-inclusive.
- The document is intended to provide clarification and explanations for the application of the revised definition in a **consistent, continent-wide basis** for the majority of BES Elements.

- The Guidance Document depicts the application of the NERC Board of Trustees approved definition of the BES.
- Diagrams were developed based on the language contained in the definition.
- Review of these diagrams should begin without any preconceived ideas of what Elements should or should not be considered BES Elements.

The application of the “bright-line” BES definition is a **three-step process** that, when appropriately applied, will identify the vast majority of BES Elements in a **consistent manner** that can be applied **on a continent-wide basis**.

An understanding of the core definition and each Inclusion and Exclusion is necessary to accurately and consistently apply the BES definition.



**The Guidance Document illustrates how the specific parts of the definition are applied, and then how the hierarchal application of the definition is accomplished.**

- *Section I* is a list of figures.
- *Sections II and III* provide illustrative diagrams with accompanying text, which describes the application of the BES definition (grouped according to the specific inclusion or exclusion).
- *Section IV* provides a series of system diagrams that depict the hierarchical application of the definition.
- *Section V* establishes the linkage to the Rules of Procedure Exception Process.

## Hierarchical Application

- Step one (1), the BES “core” definition is used to establish the bright-line of 100 kV, which is the overall demarcation point between BES and non-BES Elements.
- Step two (2) provides additional clarification for the purposes of identifying specific Elements that are included through the application of the inclusions to the definition.
- Step three (3) is to evaluate specific situations for exclusion from the BES (classification as non-BES Elements).
  - Step three (3) should be applied in the following sequence:
    - Exclusion E2, E4, E3, then E1.



# Question and Answer

Website: [http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-17\\_BES.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-17_BES.html)