

Regional Reliability Plan Guideline

The framework for Regional Reliability Plans
Version 2

Approved by Standing Committees:

**Prepared by the
Functional Model Review Working Group**

Introduction

This guideline document provides a framework for the Regional Reliability Organization to use when developing its regional reliability plan (RRP). The RRP explains the following:

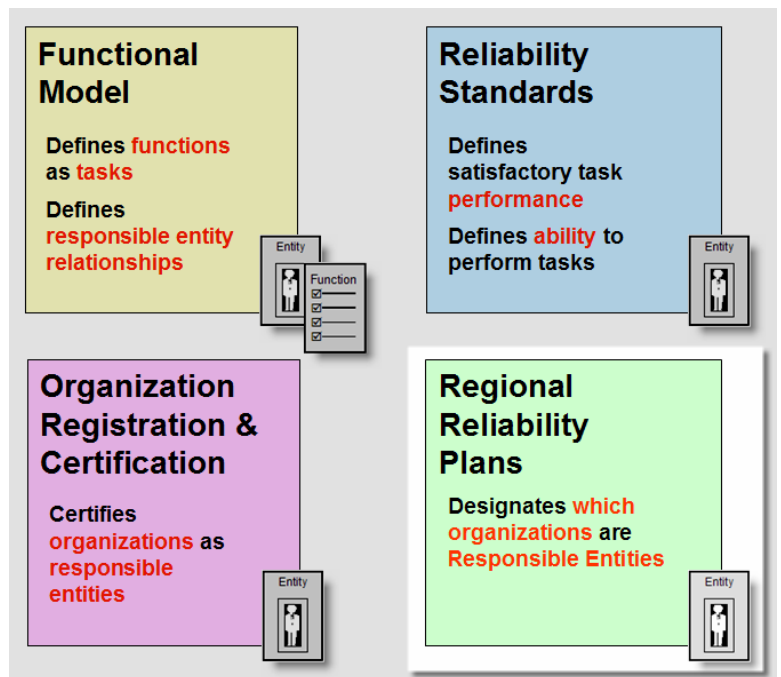
1. **The organizations that have registered with NERC.** The Functional Model designates these organizations as “Responsible Entities,” and the RRP lists all Responsible Entities, identified in the NERC reliability standards.
2. **The reliability responsibilities and their integration within the region.**

The RRP is intended to enable a region or NERC committee, compliance audit team, or readiness audit team to understand how reliability is maintained in the region. It identifies the entities responsible for meeting the requirements of NERC reliability standards (Responsible Entities), and the interrelationships among those entities.

The region may include appendices, other regional documents that are part of its reliability process or, as an alternative, electronic links to those documents in its RRP to provide additional details. However, documents referenced in these appendices may not be subject to approval by NERC.

If the reliability plan identifies critical infrastructures or includes commercially sensitive information, the region may remove this information from the RRP that is available for public review.

The region will submit its RRP to NERC for review and acceptance. The NERC Operating Committee will review for acceptance the operating section of the RRP and the NERC Planning Committee will review for acceptance the planning section. This process for the standing committees will focus on the completeness, feasibility, and adequacy of the region’s reliability plan.



The Regional Reliability Plans help tie together the functional model, reliability standards, and organization registration.

Components

Each RRP includes, at a minimum, the following components:

1. **Reliability Objectives.** A summary description of the reliability objectives of the region and how those objectives are consistent with NERC and region reliability standards.
2. **Process for Meeting the Planning Requirements.** An explanation of how the region carries out its planning functions.
 - 2.1. **Identifying Responsible Entities.** List of each Planning Coordinator (PC), Transmission Owner (TO), Transmission Planner (TP), Generator Owner (GO), and Resources Planner (RP) within the region.
 - 2.1.1. **Entities under Planning Coordinator purview.** If there is more than one PC for the region, a list or diagram that relates each TP and RP under the purview to its associated PC.
 - 2.2. **Delegating tasks.** For each PC, TO, TP, or RP, a description of the specific tasks that have been delegated to other organizations, including a list of the associated agreements between the entities.
3. **Process for meeting the operating requirements.** An explanation of how the region carries out its operating functions:
 - 3.1. **Identifying Responsible Entities.** List of each Reliability Coordinator (RC), Balancing Authority (BA), Transmission Operator (TOP), Generator Operator (GOP), Transmission Owner (TO), Distribution Provider (DP), and Load-Serving Entity (LSE) within the region.
 - 3.1.1. **Entities under Reliability Coordinator purview.** If there is more than one RC for the region, a list or diagram that relates each BA, TOP, GOP, and TO to its associated RC.
 - 3.1.2. **Reliability Coordinators and Balancing Authorities that span regions.** If an RC or BA operates in more than one region, each region will include the appropriate information for that RC or BA in its RRP.
 - 3.1.3. **Identifying assets.** Identification, in general terms, of bulk electric system assets that each RC, BA, TOP, TO, and GOP within the region are responsible for and that will be monitored for compliance to reliability standard requirements the mapping of assets to each of the registered entities are required only to the extent necessary to demonstrate there are no gaps and overlaps in responsibilities.
 - 3.1.4. **Gaps and overlaps of responsibility.** An explanation of how the region ensures that there are no gaps or overlaps in the identification of responsibility for each generation and transmission asset. For example:

- 3.1.4.1. **Balancing Authorities.** Assurance that every transmission and generation asset is within the metered boundaries of a Balancing Authority area.
 - 3.1.4.2. **Transmission Operators.** If a TOP has assets under more than one RC or BA, an identification in general terms of those TOP assets, such as voltage classes or connectivity, under each RC or BA.
 - 3.1.4.3. **Generator Operators.** If a GOP has assets under more than one RC or BA, an identification of those GOP assets under each RC or BA.
 - 3.1.4.4. **Transmission Owners.** If a TO has assets under more than one RC or BA, an identification of those TO assets under each RC or BA.
 - 3.1.4.5. **Reserve Sharing Groups.** A list of the Reserve Sharing Groups (if any) and the members of each of these groups within the region.
 - 3.1.4.6. **Reliability Coordinators.** If there are one or more RCs wholly within a region then their reliability plan will be part of the regional reliability plan. If an RC spans multiple regions then the Reliability Coordinator will be required to submit its plan to each impacted region for approval.
- 3.2. **Delegating tasks.** For each RC, BA, TOP, TO, and GOP, a description of the specific tasks that have been delegated to other organizations, including a list of the associated agreements between the entities.
- 3.3. **Items included in the Reliability Coordinator plan.** The Reliability Coordinator process section of the RRP includes the following:
- 3.3.1. Authority and responsibility
 - 3.3.2. Standards of conduct and confidentiality
 - 3.3.3. Next day and current day operations
 - 3.3.4. Adjacent reliability coordination issues
 - 3.3.5. Emergency operations
 - 3.3.6. System restoration
 - 3.3.7. Reliability monitoring and coordination
 - 3.3.8. Staffing and training
 - 3.3.9. Communications between RC's for forecasted or actual emergency conditions

3.3.10. Description of information exchange process between RC's

4. **Coordination with Adjacent Regions.** Description of the coordination process with neighboring regions, including coordination processes between the Responsible Entities (RCs, BAs, TOPs, etc.) in this RRP and Responsible Entities in adjacent regions.

4.1. **System operations**

For example:

4.1.1. Coordination agreements between adjacent Reliability Coordinators

4.1.2. Operations planning studies

4.1.3. Maintenance planning

4.1.4. Transmission and generation forced outages

4.1.5. Restoration coordination

4.1.6. Hotlines and conference calls

4.1.7. Reserve sharing

4.2. **System Planning**

4.2.1. Coordination agreements between Planning Coordinators regarding available transfer capability or available flowgate capability (as applicable) coordination.

4.2.2. Underfrequency and undervoltage relay coordination

4.2.3. System protection setting coordination

4.3. **Information exchange.** Description of information exchange process between the region and its adjacent regions as applicable.

Review and Approval Process

1. **Region reviews annually.** The region will review its RRP at least annually, and update its plan as needed
 - a. The update will include a summary or list of the changes.
2. **Region submits to OC and PC.** The region will submit its updated plan to the NERC Operating Committee and Planning Committee for review and acceptance as follows:
 - a. At least five years from the last approval date, or
 - b. Changes in RC process.
3. **The OC and PC will review the plans.** The Planning Committee will review for acceptance those sections of the RRP that deal with the planning functions identified in 2.1, and the Operating Committee will review for acceptance those sections of the RRP that deal with operations functions identified in 3.1.
4. **NERC posts on its Web site.** The region's reliability plan will be posted on the NERC Web site.