

March 24, 2008

To: Transmission Owner Representatives
TADS Regional Coordinators

RE: TADS Software Implementation – Update March 24, 2008

We are proceeding as expected during our first quarter 2008 implementation of TADS Phase I. Fundamentally, there have been no major changes to Phase I. As you know, Transmission Owner (TO) submittal of all first quarter 2008 TADS data, with basic error checking and correction, is scheduled for completion by May 30, 2008.

Secure data submittal and basic error checking of TADS data is essential. In addition, TADS information on Forms 2.x, 4.x and 5 is confidential critical energy infrastructure information (CEII). The NERC Software vendor for TADS, Open Access Technology International has developed a tool, called webTADS. WebTADS has security controls that include digital certificates, User IDs and passwords that will assure data confidentiality. WebTADS is a web-based application that will be hosted from a secure OATI computer system and facility in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Starting in April 2008, OATI will begin TO and Regional Entity user registration and training on the webTADS tool.

- All TO entities which submitted TADS Form 1.2, as ‘Reporting TO’ entities will be electronically registered, free of charge, with a secure logon ID, password and OATI digital certificate. The attached OATI document provides guidance for “Reporting TOs” in the registration process with OATI. This process will ensure appropriate access by individual TOs to submit, error check, and modify their data. In the coming weeks, OATI Help Desk will be contacting the Reporting TO contact person to initiate the TO registration process and establishment of logon IDs in webTADS.

Those which submitted TADS Form 1.1, as “Non-Reporting TO” entities (because they have no TADS Elements) will not electronically register with OATI. They will not have access to webTADS.

Registered user training will begin in April to explain the software usability and how each TO's "User Administrator" will control secure data access in webTADS. The TADS Regional Entity (RE) coordinators will be trained first, and several WebEx user training sessions are being scheduled for Reporting TOs. The training dates will be announced shortly.

The data submission process includes two basic methods – (1) bulk data upload and (2) Web-based data entry to allow registered users to securely submit data, run basic error checks and correct the data.

TO completion of first quarter 2008 data submission is scheduled for May 30, 2008. By prior correspondence on February 15, 2008, we "locked down" the 2008 data forms. The columns on these Forms (and associated column Field Names) remain the same.

During the WebEx sessions in April, training will be provided to demonstrate both methods -- bulk upload and Web-based data entry. OATI has now added the mapping necessary to the existing columns on Form 2.x, Form 4.x and Form 5. The updated workbook is posted on the TADS website and available for use as of today (*see* <http://www.nerc.com/~filez/tadstf.html>). The March updates to the bulk load Forms are highlighted in yellow on Attachment 1 to this letter. Please read these highlights. Some of the February 13th Update 'drop down box' data entries were incorrect or missing from the list. The March Update of the workbook corrects these 'drop down box' data entries, and must be used in all TO data submittals. Each TO should verify their data and as necessary select from the 'drop down boxes' in the March Update of the workbook. This process will also be covered in the WebEx training sessions noted below. WebEx training will be conducted to demonstrate how the bulk load Forms will enable both secure and easy upload of this large volume of data. Immediate data error checking will also occur to enable each registered user to identify and correct their data.

Please briefly review the User Registration process shown on the attached OATI document (PDF file). Based on the information already submitted on Form 1.2, within the next few weeks OATI will be in contact with each Reporting TO to begin the logon registration process. User registration should be completed prior to user attendance at the WebEx training sessions in April. The WebEx dates will be announced shortly.

Thanks again for your participation! Please send questions to tads@nerc.net or call Jim Robinson at (610) 841-3362.

Copies to:

Workshop Participants
TADS Task Force
Regional Entity Management Group

Attachment #1

Changes to TADS 2008 Data Forms

March 10, 2008 Update

On all of the Forms the data entry 'drop down box' text has been updated to correspond to the February 13th TADS user Manual. All user data entry must match the text in the 'drop down box' selections. OATI software will flag an error if the text does not match.

"XSD Mapping" has been added to the existing columns on Form 2.x, Form 4.x and Form 5. This will enable saving these forms in a file format (XML) which is capable of being 'bulk uploaded' into the OATI software. The number of columns (and left to right order of each column) remain the same as the February update. Data 'copied' from one or many 'rows' of the February forms may be 'pasted' onto the updated forms.

The 'Notes' at the bottom of each page have been moved to the top, and the unnecessary rows have been deleted. By removing these Notes, extra data rows do not need to be 'inserted'. The number of data rows at the bottom of the sheet is now unlimited.

WebEx training on the above will be conducted in April. Dates to be announced.