



October 27, 2006

TO: PLANNING COMMITTEE

Transmission Availability Data System Task Force

Dear Members:

The purpose of this letter is to announce that on October 24, 2006, the Planning Committee (PC) Executive Committee formed the Transmission Availability Data System Task Force (TADSTF). The scope of the task force is attached. Jean-Marie Gagnon of Hydro Québec will chair this task force.

Transmission availability data is critical in assessing the performance of the transmission system, and many companies are already collecting such data. In Canada, the Canadian Electricity Association collects and compiles very detailed data from members who provide it. In the United States, the Energy Information Administration added Schedule 7 in its Form 411 that requires the reporting of very sparse data. No common framework now exists for collecting transmission availability data, and this is the essential issue that the TADSTF will address.

We would like to have the task force members selected by Friday, November 3, 2006 and are soliciting volunteers from the PC to work on this very important effort. The task force will start work immediately and will report their progress to the PC at its December 2006 meeting in Houston. The members will tackle the first goal described in the "Purpose" section of the scope document: to propose the type of transmission availability data that transmission owners will report to NERC.

If you would like to serve on this task force, please send an e-mail to Jean-Marie Gagnon (gagnon.jean-marie@hydro.qc.ca) and copy John Seelke of the NERC staff (John.Seelke@nerc.net).

Sincerely,

Scott M. Helyer
Chairman
NERC Planning Committee

Attachment
cc: Operating Committee

Transmission Availability Data System (TADS) Task Force

Purpose(s)	<p>In order to quantify or measure system performance and reliability, the TADS Task Force will recommend:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The <u>type</u> of transmission availability data that transmission owners will report to NERC; b. A single <u>process</u> for collecting such data that avoids duplication of effort; c. The transmission availability <u>statistics</u> that would be calculated from the reported availability data; and d. <u>Guidelines</u> for release of such data and statistics.
Background	<p>At its December 2005 meeting, the Planning Committee (PC) created a Transmission Availability Task Force (TF) to determine what transmission performance characteristics are currently being collected and by what industry participants, the use of the data in terms of reports or other applications, and to proposed next steps for the Planning Committee to pursue. It was recognized that such data was needed to quantify or measure system performance and reliability.</p> <p>The task force reported back to the PC at its March and September 2006 meetings. They recommended that NERC take on the role of directing a comprehensive data collection and reporting process and that a new task force be created to define what data should be collected, the format for collecting it, and the statistics that should be reported. The task force also recommended that the new task force's efforts be expedited so as to have an opportunity to affect the current transmission availability reporting requirements of the United States Energy Information Administration.</p>
Scope of Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Catalog the type of transmission availability data currently being collected by NERC members as well as the uses of the data. b. Recommend a common data reporting framework or protocol. c. Develop common availability statistics that could be computed from the data. d. Recommend guidelines for the sharing and release of data.
Membership	<p>Five to ten people, including members of the Planning Committee as well as industry experts.</p>
Reporting	<p>Responsible to the NERC Planning Committee.</p>
Subgroups	<p>NA</p>