NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

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February 15, 2008

To: Transmission Owner Representatives
TADS Regional Coordinators
Workshop Participants
TADS Task Force
Regional Entity Management Group

RE: TADS Update – February 13, 2008

Thanks to all of you who participated in the initial 2008 data submittal for the Transmission Availability Data System (TADS) – Phase I and in the TADS workshops. We are proceeding as expected during our first quarter 2008 shake down of TADS. We have received good feedback from all of you, and as a result, we have made some adjustments to TADS. The TADS Task Force discussed your feedback during its meeting on January 31-February 1, 2008 and agreed upon the adjustments in this February 13, 2008 TADS update.

Fundamentally, there have been no major changes to TADS. However, several definitions have been updated and additional examples incorporated to add clarity. Some of your suggestions are more appropriate for consideration for a future TADS collection cycle.

The updated Data Reporting Instruction Manual and the updated 2008 TADS data workbook of TADS forms are posted on the TADS website at http://www.nerc.com/~filez/tadstf.html. The Manual contains the most recent updates and clarifications to definitions, interpretation examples, and instructions for completing the forms. Both a clean and redline version of the Manual are posted.

The workbook is now frozen for 2008, and it must be used for all 2008 data submissions. The significant updates to the Manual and forms are highlighted in yellow on Attachment 1 to this letter, which was taken from the "version history" in the Manual. Please read the yellow highlights carefully since some of your data entries to date may need to be updated. From this date forward, please use the updated forms for all submittals. Please do not add or delete any rows, columns, or cell formats (and please do not merge cells). If requested, we will conduct Web sessions to review these updates. Let us know by sending an e-mail to tads@nerc.net.

For those Transmission Owners who would like to update their previous Form 2. 1 or 2.2 data submittals, please coordinate your updates through your TADS regional coordinator. Their contact information is listed in the Manual in Appendix 9.

As many of you are aware of, the NERC vendor target date for completion of data input software for both batch and Web-based input is late March 2008. We will keep you posted on the vendor's progress. We are planning several Web sessions to cover how to use the software, and we will keep you posted on the software training schedule when it becomes final.

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

Attachment #1

Changes to TADS Manual and 2008 Data Forms

for the February 13, 2008 Update

P. 1, Section 1.2.1

We clarified that all voltages are operating voltages.

P. 4, Section 1.4.1

We added instructions on how to transmit TADS data securely via e-mail.

P. 7, Section 1.9.2

We added new language that emphasizes the need to complete the lower part of Form 1.2 that describes each form's "Submission Status" and "Reason for Not Submitting" forms. This allows us to tell whether a blank form is intended or an oversight.

P. 8, Sections 2 and Form 2.1, p. 19

We required that only jointly-owned circuits are to be reported on Form 2.1. We previously required tie lines to be reported even if they were not jointly owned. We eliminated the term "tie line."

P. 8, Table 2.1 and p. 19, Form 2.1

(i) We added the ability to specify a three-terminal circuit with a new column D. Other columns letters were changed accordingly.
(ii) The TO Element Identifier in column I is now required. With this change, it will be possible to produce outage data of jointly owned facilities for all joint owners.
(iii) We extended the number of joint owners from four to ten (columns J-W).

P. 9, Table 2.2 and p. 20, Form 2.2

We added a "Not Applicable" column F to keep the column labeling consistent between Forms 2.1 and 2.2.

P. 10, Table 3.1

In column B, we clarified that the circuit inventory is not to include circuits which are not normally energized and fully connected to the system or which have not been declared commercially in service by the TO.

P. 12, Table 3.2

In column B, we clarified that the Transformer inventory is not to include Transformers which are not normally energized and fully connected to the system (e.g., spares) or which have not been declared commercially in service by the TO.

Pp. 14-15, Table 4-1-4.4 (Forms 4.1 -4.4) and pp. 26-29, Forms 4.1-4.4

(i) The TO Element Identifier in column G is now required. It was previously optional.
(ii) The Fault Type drop-down menus in column J were changed to correspond to updated Fault Type descriptions. In addition to being having simpler names, Fault Type 4 now includes three phase faults without a ground target. This type of fault was previously omitted.
(iii) The Outage Start Time date heading row label in column L was corrected to "mm/dd/yyyy" from "dd/mm/yyyy."
(iv) We also changed the Outage Duration format in column M from "hh:mm" to "hhhh:mm." Note that the format is a text field. Enter 860 hours and 20 min. as 860:20.
(v) We added an "Outage Continuation Flag" in column Q which is defined in Appendix 6, Section B.

P. 15, Section 4.1

We simplified the method for recording outages that continue beyond a reporting year. This section is significantly different.

P. 16, Table 5 and p. 29, Form 5

The optional description for an Event's outages in column C may be provided for *any* Event ID Code. It was previously restricted to Event ID Codes having an Event Type 50.

P, 21, Form 3.1

The Voltage Class label for row 11 was corrected to "400-499 kV DC Overhead."

P. 23, Form 3.3

The Voltage Class for row 4 was corrected to "400-599 kV."

Appendix 6 (Definitions), p. 1

For "AC Circuit," we clarified that in-line sectionalizing switches inside an AC Substation are part of the AC Circuit. Also clarified that series compensation within an AC Circuit Boundaries is part of the AC Circuit, while series compensation outside of the AC Circuit boundaries is part of the AC Substation.

Appendix 6 (Definitions), p. 3

For "AC Substation," we clarified that series compensation is part of the AC Substation if it is not within an AC Circuit's boundaries.

Appendix 6 (Definitions), p. 4

For "Automatic Outage," we removed the phrase "i.e., there is a partial or full loss of continuous power flow through the Element to the system" that is descriptive of an outage. The loss of power flow through an Element does not necessarily result in an outage as long as the Element is energized and fully connected as defined in "In Service State."

Appendix 6 (Definitions), pp. 5-7

For "In-Service State," we added three additional figures showing outages for an AC Circuit and a Transformer. We also modified the three-terminal "exception" explanation. The exception only applies to Figure 8, not both figures.

Appendix 6 (Definitions), p. 8

We added a new definition for Outage Continuation Flag.

Appendix 6 (Definitions), p. 10

We added different description of Fault Type, including clarifying that it applies to each outaged Element. Fault Type 4 now includes three phase faults without a ground target. This type of fault was omitted previously.

P. 72, Form 4.3

Outage ID Code B2 and D2: Changes: The Fault Type was changed to "No fault" because the Transformer did not experience a fault.