



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

January 17, 2007

TO: REGISTERED BALLOT BODY

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Announcement: Pre-ballot Windows and Ballot Pools Open

The Standards Committee announces the following standards actions:

Revised VSLs for NUC-001 Posted

[Project 2007-23 — Violation Severity Levels](#) proposes replacing the existing “Levels of Non-compliance” in the 83 standards approved by FERC with Violation Severity Levels (VSLs). In its June 7, 2007 *Order on Compliance Filing*, FERC directed NERC to replace the “Levels of Non-compliance” with VSLs by March 1, 2008. The drafting team also developed VSLs for the NERC Board-approved NUC-001-1 — Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination reliability standard.

The Standards Committee appointed the Violation Severity Level Drafting Team (VSL DT) to draft guidelines for the development of VSLs and to coordinate the development of VSLs with industry stakeholders. The VSL DT posted the draft *VSL Development Guidelines Criteria* (VSL Guidelines) and a proposed set of VSLs for the 83-FERC-approved standards and the NUC-001-1 reliability standard for comment. The VSL DT made conforming changes to the VSL Guidelines and to more than half of the VSLs but does not have time to collect additional feedback on the acceptability of the modifications before proceeding to ballot. (Note that the VSL DT is finalizing the production of the revised VSL Development Guidelines and will post the revised document no later than January 4, 2008.)

There are 739 sets of VSLs (each set is associated with a requirement or sub-requirement) and these sets of VSLs have been grouped into nine “ballots.” Each ballot has its own [ballot pool](#) and its own list server as shown in the following table.

VSL Ballot Pools	Ballot Pool List Server
VSLs for Balancing (BAL)	bp-VSL_BAL_in@nerc.com
VSLs for Critical Infrastructure, Communications, Voltage & Reactive (CIP, COM, VAR)	bp-VSL_CIP_COM_VAR_in@nerc.com
VSLs for Emergency Operations (EOP)	bp-VSL_EOP_in@nerc.com
VSLs for Facilities and Modeling (FAC, MOD)	bp-VSL_FAC_MOD_in@nerc.com
VSLs for Interchange, Personnel and Nuclear (INT, PER, NUC)	bp-VSL_INT_PER_NUC_in@nerc.com

VSLs for Interconnected Reliability Operations (IRO)	bp-VSL_IRO_in@nerc.com
VSLs for Protection and Control (PRC)	bp-VSL_PRC_in@nerc.com
VSLs for Transmission Operations (TOP)	bp_VSL_TOP_in@nerc.com
VSLs for Transmission Planning (TPL)	bp-VSL_TPL_in@nerc.com

During the 30-day, pre-ballot window, members of a ballot pool may communicate with one another by using their “ballot pool list server¹.” (Once the balloting begins, ballot pool members are prohibited from using the ballot pool list servers.) Any member of the Registered Ballot Body may join as many of these ballot pools as desired — a member wanting to ballot all of the VSLs must join all nine of the ballot pools. The ballot pools will remain open up until **8 a.m. (EDT) Monday, January 21, 2008**.

Note that each ballot is for approval of the associated set of VSLs — there is no ballot for the VSL Guidelines Criteria Reference Document. A complete list of all the standards associated with each of the ballots is attached.

An **abbreviated initial ballot** for the VSLs will begin at **8 a.m. (EDT) on Monday, January 21, 2008** and end at **8 a.m. (EDT) on Monday, January 28, 2008**. The abbreviated ballot window was endorsed by the Standards Committee to support delivery of the VSLs to the FERC by March 1, 2008.

Standards Development Process

The [Reliability Standards Development Procedure](#) contains all the procedures governing the standards development process. The success of the NERC standards development process depends on stakeholder participation. We extend our thanks to all those who participate. If you have any questions, please contact me at 813-468-5998 or maureen.long@nerc.net.

Sincerely,

Maureen E. Long

Standards Process Manager

cc: Registered Ballot Body Registered Users
Standards Mailing List
NERC Roster

¹ For assistance in using a list server, contact Barbara Bogenrief at 609-452-8060.