

November 13, 2007

TO: REGISTERED BALLOT BODY

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Announcement: Special Comment Period Opens

The Standards Committee (SC) announces the following standards action:

Draft Violation Severity Levels for Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination Standard (NUC-001-1) Standard Posted for Abbreviated 14-day Comment Period November 13–November 26, 2007

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) directed NERC to replace “Levels of Non-Compliance” in the 83 FERC-approved standards with “[Violation Severity Levels](#)” (VSLs). The Violation Severity Level Drafting Team (VSL DT) was appointed to draft guidelines for the development of VSLs and to coordinate the development of VSLs with industry stakeholders. The VSL DT has posted the draft *VSL Development Guidelines Criteria* (VSL Guidelines) and a proposed set of VSLs for the 83-FERC-approved standards for public comment through November 26, 2007.

Earlier this year, the Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination Standard [NUC-001-1](#) was approved by the NERC Board of Trustees (board). The board-approved version of NUC-001-1 contains VSLs, but the VSLs were not developed following the proposed VSL Guidelines, and they don’t provide the desired level of flexibility in assessing partial compliance with requirements. Over the past month, a subset of the Nuclear Standard Drafting Team used the posted [VSL Development Guidelines Criteria](#) to develop VSLs for the board-approved NUC-001-1 standard with the intent to process the VSLs for NUC-001-1 with the VSLs for the 83 FERC-approved standards. The board-approved version of NUC-001-1 included only five VSLs for nine requirements — compared to 31 VSLs in the set of proposed VSLs for the same standard.

The draft VSLs for NUC-001-1 are being posted for an **abbreviated comment period** from November 13 through November 26, 2007 so that they may be balloted concurrent with the VSLs for the 83 FERC-approved standards.

Please use the [comment form](#) to provide comments on the VSLs for the NUC-001-1 standard.

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

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