

To: Director of Standards
North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)

From: Standards Review Committee
ISO/RTO Council

Subject: **Level 1 Appeal for Inaction on NERC Project 2009-02: Interpretation of COM-002, R2 for the ISO/RTO Council**

Date: August 30, 2011

The Standards Review Committee (SRC) of the ISO/RTO Council¹ (IRC), in accordance with the *Process for Appealing an Action or Inaction* section of the *NERC Standard Processes Manual*², is submitting this Level 1 Appeal for inaction on NERC Project 2009-02: Interpretation of COM-002, R2 for the ISO/RTO Council.

The SRC, on behalf of the ISO/RTO Council, submitted its Request for Interpretation on COM-002, R2 (the RFI) on October 2, 2009. The RFI was accepted by NERC staff and submitted to the NERC Standards Committee (SC) for processing under the then current Reliability Standards Development Process. A draft Interpretation was posted for industry comment on November 18, 2010, 13 months after the RFI was originally submitted.

Comments were accepted for a 30-day period, which ended on December 18, 2010. At that time, the RFI process was put on hold, without public explanation, until the May 12, 2011 NERC SC meeting, creating an additional 6 month delay. During this delay, three independent Standard Drafting Teams became involved in the development of a definition of 'Reliability Directive', directly related to the SRC's RFI.

During the May meeting, the SC designated the RFI a "high priority" action item and reassigned it to the Project 2007-02 Standard Drafting Team for completion to serve as the second Interpretation Drafting Team.

In June, 2011, this second Interpretation Drafting Team met to consider comments received in December of the previous year. At the August 11, 2011 meeting of the SC, an inquiry was made as to the status of the RFI, and concern expressed that several months had passed without response to comments and no revised interpretation for balloting. NERC Staff indicated that the Interpretation Drafting Team has been 'busy' with Project 2007-02 standard development work.

¹ The IRC is comprised of the Alberta Electric System Operator ("AESO"), Electric Reliability Council of Texas ("ERCOT"), the Independent Electricity System Operator of Ontario, Inc. ("IESO"), ISO New England, Inc. ("ISO-NE"), Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. ("Midwest ISO"), New York Independent System Operator, Inc. ("NYISO"), PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM"), Southwest Power Pool, Inc. ("SPP") and New Brunswick System Operator ("NBSO").

² NERC Standards Processes Manual, September 3, 2010, page 30

The SRC finds these continued delays and inaction unacceptable. The number of violations of COM-002 since the SRC's original submittal of the RFI continues to grow, adversely impacting the Reliability Coordinators, Transmission Operators and Balancing Authorities represented by the SRC's members.

The SRC recently conducted a review of the active Interpretations currently posted on the NERC web page and found that on average it takes 3.2 months from the time that a request is submitted to the time it is approved by industry ballot. However, many of those interpretations remain posted without explanation of why they have not been moved forward to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval.

The SRC believes that Interpretations should be developed and processed in a timely manner, without delays. Given the number of violations associated with COM-002 the basis for this interpretation continues to be an urgent issue. Moreover, this Standard Requirement has been identified by Gerry Cauley, NERC's President and CEO, as a high priority, high-violation Requirement. If this is the case, then it should not take over 22 months to process an RFI on that very issue.

The SRC respectfully requests that Project 2009-02 be given an "immediate/urgent" priority and addressed within 30 days of receiving this Level 1 Appeal. Additionally, the SRC requests a formal explanation of the delays associated with this Project.

If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Albert DiCaprio
Chairman, ISO RTO Council, SRC

Cc: NERC Standards Committee
Maureen Long, Director of Standards Processes
Andy Rodriguez, Director of Standards Development
ISO RTO Council Standards Review Committee