

**Request for an Interpretation of a Reliability Standard**

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**Contact information for person requesting the interpretation:**

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**Identify the standard that needs clarification:**

Standard Number: TOP-002-2 Normal Operations Planning

**Identify specifically what needs clarification:**

*Requirement Number and Text of Requirement:*

Requirement R11: The Transmission Operator shall perform seasonal, next-day, and current-day Bulk Electric System studies to determine SOLs. Neighboring Transmission Operators shall utilize identical SOLs for common facilities. The Transmission Operator shall update these Bulk Electric System studies as necessary to reflect current system conditions; and shall make the results of Bulk Electric System studies available to the Transmission Operators, Balancing Authorities (subject to confidentiality requirements), and to its Reliability Coordinator.

1. Is the Transmission Operator required to conduct a "unique" study for each operating day, even when the actual or expected system conditions are identical to other days already studied? In other words, can a study be used for more than one day?
2. Are there specific actions required to implement a "study"? In other words, what constitutes a study?
3. Does the term, "to determine SOLs" as used in the first sentence of Requirement R11 mean the "determination of system operating limits" or does it mean the "identification of potential SOL violations?"

**Identify the material impact associated with this interpretation:**

*Identify the material impact to your organization or others caused by the lack of clarity or an incorrect interpretation of this standard.*

The uncertainty in the definitions of these terms and inconsistency in their application can

result in either too little or unnecessary study work being performed. Unnecessary, redundant work with no benefit to reliability performed for the purpose of meeting an overly literal interpretation of the requirement will result in higher operating costs to the end users of the transmission system and the loss of opportunities to use those resources for more important reliability-related tasks. Clarification of these two terms (Study & SOL) will aid in focusing the proper resources on the proper work, maximizing both the reliability of the system and the investment of the end user.