

## Standards Announcement

### Results of Non-binding Polls for Six Sets of VSLs

Project Page Available at: [http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/VSLs\\_Project\\_2007-23.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/VSLs_Project_2007-23.html)

#### Project 2007-23 Violation Severity Levels

The non-binding polls for each of the six sets of Violation Severity Levels (VSLs) shown below closed on **November 6, 2010**. Results are shown in the following table.

Non-binding Poll	Voting%	Support%
VSLs - Balancing Resources and Demand (BAL) and Interchange (INT)	79%	60%
VSLs - Interconnected Reliability Operations (IRO)	79%	78%
VSLs – Nuclear (NUC), Transmission Operations (TOP), and Voltage and Reactive (VAR)	79%	76%
VSLs – Communications (COM), Emergency Operations (EOP), Personnel (PER)	79%	70%
VSLs - Facilities (FAC) and Modeling (MOD)	79%	80%
VSLs - Protection and Control (PRC), Transmission Planning (TPL)	79%	83%

#### Next Steps

The drafting team, working with NERC staff, will review the comments and determine if any of the VSLs should be modified before being presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

#### Project Background

In its June 19, 2008 VSL Order, FERC directed NERC to review all VSLs (with the exception of those for which the Commission directed specific modification), for compliance with FERC's VSL Guidelines 2b, 3, and 4 and submit a compliance filing either validating the current Violation Severity Level assignments or proposing revision.

- Guideline 2b — VSLs should not use ambiguous terms such as "minor" or "significant" to describe noncompliant performance.
- Guideline 3 — VSLs should be consistent with the corresponding requirement (VSLs should not expand on what is in the requirement).
- Guideline 4 — VSLs should be based on a single violation, not on a cumulative number of violations (unless stated otherwise in the requirement).

The VSLs have been reviewed, balloted, and reviewed again for consistency with the FERC Guidelines. The review

subsequent to the last ballot identified some discrepancies and inconsistencies in the VSL assignments last balloted. The VSLs that met all the Guidelines were filed with FERC earlier this year. The remaining VSLs must be filed with FERC by December 1, 2010.

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### **Standards Process**

The [Standard Processes Manual](#) 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.

*For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson,  
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