



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Standards Announcement

Non-binding Polls for VSLs Now Open

October 27-November 6, 2010

Available at: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

### Project 2007-23 Violation Severity Levels

The windows for submitting opinions on each of the six sets of Violation Severity Levels (VSLs) shown below are open through **8 p.m. Eastern on November 6, 2010.**

VSLs - Balancing Resources and Demand (BAL) and Interchange (INT)

VSLs - Interconnected Reliability Operations (IRO)

VSLs – Nuclear (NUC), Transmission Operations (TOP), and Voltage and Reactive (VAR)

VSLs – Communications (COM), Emergency Operations (EOP), Personnel (PER)

VSLs - Facilities (FAC) and Modeling (MOD)

VSLs - Protection and Control (PRC), Transmission Planning (TPL)

### Instructions

Members of the ballot pools associated with these sets of VSLs may log in and submit their opinions from the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

### Next Steps

The results of the non-binding polls will be posted.

### 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.

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

### **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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