



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Ballot Pool Formation and Review Period Open

September 27 - October 27, 2010

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

Project 2007-23 Violation Severity Levels

Six sets of Violation Severity Levels (VSLs) have been posted for a 30-day review period through **8 a.m. Eastern on October 27, 2010**. During this review period, members of the Registered Ballot Body may join associated ballot pools to be eligible to cast an opinion on the proposed VSLs.

NERC staff, working with members of the VSL Drafting Team, considered and responded to the comments submitted by stakeholders (August 2 – September 16, 2010) and posted a “Consideration of Comments” report and the complete set of VSLs showing redline changes made to the VSLs following the formal comment period. These reports are posted on the VSL project web page:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/VSLs_Project_2007-23.html

Instructions

Each set of VSLs has its own ballot pool. Registered Ballot Body members must join the VSL ballot pools to be eligible to cast opinions in the upcoming non-binding polls of the proposed VSLs. Members of the Registered Ballot Body may join ballot pools from the following page:

<https://standards.nerc.net/BallotPool.aspx>

During the pre-ballot window, members of the ballot pools may communicate with one another by using their “ballot pool list servers.” (Once the non-binding poll opens, ballot pool members are prohibited from using the ballot pool list servers.) The list servers for these ballot pools are shown below:

VSLs	List Server
VSLs - Balancing Resources and Demand (BAL) and Interchange (INT)	bp-2007-23_BAL_INT_3_in@nerc.com
VSLs - Interconnected Reliability Operations (IRO)	bp-2007-23_IRO_3_in@nerc.com
VSLs – Nuclear (NUC), Transmission Operations (TOP), and Voltage and Reactive (VAR)	bp-2007-23_NUC_TOP_VAR3_in@nerc.com
VSLs – Communications (COM), Emergency Operations (EOP), Personnel (PER)	bp-2007-23_COM_EOP_PER3_in@nerc.com
VSLs - Facilities (FAC) and Modeling (MOD)	bp-2007-23_FAC_MOD_3_in@nerc.com
VSLs - Protection and Control (PRC), Transmission Planning (TPL)	bp-2007-23_PRC_TPL_3_in@nerc.com

Next Steps

The non-binding poll will open for 10 days, starting shortly after the 30-day review period closes.

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.

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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