

Standards Announcement

Ballot Pool and Pre-ballot Window

June 30–July 31, 2009

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

Nine Sets of Violation Severity Levels (VSLs):

- **Project 2007-23 — Violation Severity Levels**
- **Project 2008-08 — EOP Violation Severity Levels**

Nine sets of VSLs are posted for a 30-day pre-ballot review. Registered Ballot Body members may join the ballot pool to be eligible to vote on these VSLs **until 8 a.m. EDT on July 31, 2009**.

During the pre-ballot window, members of the ballot pool may communicate with one another by using their “ballot pool list server.” (Once the balloting begins, ballot pool members are prohibited from using the ballot pool list servers.) The list servers for these ballot pools are as follows:

VSL Ballot Pools	Ballot Pool List Servers
Project 2007-23 — Violation Severity Levels	
Resource and Demand Balancing (BAL)	bp-2007-23_BAL_VSLs_in
Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP), Communications (COM), and Voltage & Reactive (VAR)	bp-2007-23_CP_CM_VR_VSL_in
Facilities (FAC) and Modeling (MOD)	bp-2007-23_FAC_MOD_VSLs_in
Interchange (INT), Personnel (PER), and Nuclear (NUC)	bp-2007-23_INT_PER_NUC_in
Interconnected Reliability Operations (IRO)	bp-2007-23_IRO_VSLs_in
Protection and Control (PRC)	bp-2007-23_PRC_VSLs_in
Transmission Operations (TOP)	bp-2007-23_TOP_VSLs_in
Transmission Planning (TPL)	bp-2007-23_TPL_VSLs_in
Project 2008-08 — EOP Violation Severity Levels	
Emergency Preparedness and Operations (EOP)	bp-2008-08_EOP_VSLs_in

Project 2007-23 Background:

In its June 19, 2008 VSL Order, FERC directed NERC to review all Violation Severity Level assignments, (with the exception of those for which the Commission directed specific modification),

for compliance with the following 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 VSL DT posted eight sets of proposed VSLs for stakeholder comment from April 1–30, 2009. Each of the eight sets of VSLs covers several standards as identified below:

- **BAL**
 - BAL-001 through BAL-006
- **CIP, COM, and VAR**
 - CIP-001
 - COM-001, COM-002
 - VAR-001, VAR-002
- **FAC and MOD**
 - FAC-001, FAC-002, FAC-003, FAC-008, FAC-009, and FAC-013
 - MOD-006, MOD-007, MOD-010, MOD-012 and MOD-016 through MOD-021
- **INT, PER, and NUC**
 - INT-001, INT-003 through INT-010
 - PER-001 through PER-004
 - NUC-001
- **IRO**
 - IRO-001 through IRO-006 and IRO-014 through IRO-016
- **PRC**
 - PRC-001, PRC-004, PRC-005, PRC-007 through PRC-011, PRC-015 through PRC-018, PRC-021, and PRC-022
- **TOP**
 - TOP-001 through TOP-008
- **TPL**
 - TPL-001 through TPL-004

The drafting team produced a redline version of each set of VSLs to show stakeholders the original set of VSLs that was balloted in 2008, the changes proposed by the VSL DT in April 2009, and additional changes made based on stakeholder comments in June 2009. The team has responded to all comments and has posted all its work.

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

Project 2008-08 Background:

The ballot for the VSLs for the eight Emergency Preparedness and Operations (EOP) reliability standards that was conducted in 2008 failed to meet the required two-thirds majority of the weighted segment votes cast in the affirmative. As a result, the NERC Board of Trustees directed the Standards Committee to take the necessary steps needed to expedite the development of a revised group of EOP VSLs for filing with FERC.

The drafting team produced a redline version of the EOP VSLs to show stakeholders the set of VSLs that was proposed in April 2008, the changes made based on stakeholder comments and FERC guidance in 2008, and the changes made based on stakeholder comments in 2009.

Project page: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/EOP_VSLs_Project_2008-08.html

Next Steps

Voting will begin shortly after the pre-ballot review closes.

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