



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Comment Period Open

April 1–April 30, 2009

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

Project 2007-23 — Violation Severity Levels (VSLs)

The Standard Drafting Team for Project 2007-23 has posted eight sets of VSLs for a comment period **until 8 p.m. on April 30, 2009.**

Special Notes for this Comment Period

A comment form created in Microsoft Word is posted at http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/VSLs_Project_2007-23.html. You may submit the completed form by e-mail to sarcomm@nerc.net with the words “VSL Order Comment Form” in the subject line. If you experience any difficulties in using the form, please contact Lauren Koller at 609-452-8060 or Lauren.Koller@nerc.net.

Each of the eight sets of VSLs covers several standards as identified in the comment form. Each set of VSLs is posted on the project page in a separate file. The VSLs will eventually be posted for ballot with a separate ballot for each set of VSLs. (Note that there is one more set of VSLs for the Emergency Operations (EOP) standards. The EOP VSLs were revised because they were not approved by their ballot pool. The EOP VSLs were developed by a separate drafting team and will be posted for comment separately.) If you have any questions on the subject information, please contact Al Calafiore at Al.Calafiore@nerc.net.

Project 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 Guidelines 2b, 3, and 4 and submit a compliance filing either validating the current Violation Severity Level assignments or proposing revision. Here are the relevant “Guidelines:”

- 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).

FERC also directed NERC to modify some VSLs, identified in Appendix A of its VSL Order. These revised VSLs are shown in the VSLs posted for comment.

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

Standards Development Process

The [Reliability Standards Development Procedure](#) 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 Shaun Streeter at shaun.streeter@nerc.net or at 609.452.8060.*

