

Standards Announcement

Comment Period Open

March 16–April 20, 2009

Now available at:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Reliability_Standards_Under_Development.html

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Violation Severity Levels (VSLs) and Violation Risk Factors (VRFs) for Standards CIP-002 through CIP-009

The Standard Drafting Teams for Projects 2008-06 (Cyber Security Order 706) and 2008-14 (Cyber Security Violation Severity Levels) have posted the following items relating to NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) standards CIP-002 through CIP-009 for a comment period **until 8 p.m. on April 20, 2009:**

- Proposed VSLs for Versions 1 and 2 of standards CIP-002 through CIP-009
- Proposed VRFs for Version 2 of standards CIP-003 and CIP-006
- Proposed revision to the scope of the Standard Authorization Request (SAR) for Project 2008-14

Special Notes for this Comment Period

To make things easier, we've combined the questions for both projects into one [comment form](#). Note that you do not have to answer all of the questions. We've also posted a zip file containing Microsoft Word versions of all documents (for both projects) related to the comment period (comment form, proposed VSLs, proposed VRFs, and revisions to the SAR for 2008-14). The single comment form and the zip file are available on both project pages:

Page for Project 2008-06: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project_2008-06_Cyber_Security.html

Page for Project 2008-14: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2008-14_Cyber_Security_VSLDT.html

If you experience any difficulties in using the form, please contact Lauren Koller at 609-452-8060 or Lauren.Koller@nerc.net.

Project Background

The comment form provides a detailed explanation of the stages of the VSLs and VRFs for the standards. Standards CIP-002 through CIP-009 were originally filed with “Levels of Non-Compliance” instead of “Violation Severity Levels,” and a key aspect of these projects is the replacement of Levels of Non-Compliance with Violation Severity Levels.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Order 706 (Mandatory Reliability Standards for Critical Infrastructure Protection - Issued January 18, 2008) approved eight Version 1 Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) reliability standards and directed NERC to develop modifications to the Reliability Standards CIP-002 through CIP-009 to address specific concerns. Included in Order 706 was a directive for NERC to file Violation Severity Levels for reliability standards CIP-002 through CIP-009 before compliance audits begin on July 1, 2009.

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.*

