

## Standards Announcement

### Initial Ballot Results

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

#### Nine Sets of Violation Severity Levels (VSLs):

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

The initial ballots for nine sets for VSLs ended on August 10, 2009.

#### Ballot Results

Voting statistics are listed below, and the [Ballot Results](#) Web page provides a link to the detailed results:

Project 2007-23 — Violation Severity Levels		
Ballot	Quorum (%)	Approval (%)
Resource and Demand Balancing (BAL)	86.28	89.56
Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP), Communications (COM), and Voltage & Reactive (VAR)	86.50	85.78
Facilities (FAC) and Modeling (MOD)	86.64	87.63
Interchange (INT), Personnel (PER), and Nuclear (NUC)	85.71	88.63
Interconnected Reliability Operations (IRO)	86.16	90.15
Protection and Control (PRC)	86.32	88.26
Transmission Operations (TOP)	86.40	89.14
Transmission Planning (TPL)	85.71	90.46
Project 2008-08 — EOP Violation Severity Levels		
Ballot	Quorum (%)	Approval (%)
Emergency Preparedness and Operations (EOP)	87.98	87.31

Since each ballot included at least one negative vote with an associated comment, these results are not final. Second (or recirculation) ballots must be conducted. Ballot criteria details are listed at the end of the announcement.

#### Next Steps

As part of the recirculation ballot process, the drafting team must draft and post responses to voter comments. The drafting team will also determine whether or not to make revisions to the balloted item(s). Should the team decide to make revisions, the revised item(s) will return to the initial ballot phase.

### **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](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](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/EOP_VSLs_Project_2008-08.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.

### **Ballot Criteria**

Approval requires both a (1) quorum, which is established by at least 75% of the members of the ballot pool for submitting either an affirmative vote, a negative vote, or an abstention, and (2) A two-thirds majority of the weighted segment votes cast must be affirmative; the number of votes cast is the sum of affirmative and negative votes, excluding abstentions and nonresponses. If there are no negative votes with reasons from the first ballot, the results of the first ballot shall stand. If, however, one or more members submit negative votes with reasons, a second ballot shall be conducted.

*For more information or assistance,  
please contact Shaun Streeter at [shaun.streeter@nerc.net](mailto:shaun.streeter@nerc.net) or at 609.452.8060.*

