

Standards Announcement Recirculation Ballot Windows Open August 17–27, 2009

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

Nine Sets of Violation Severity Levels (VSLs)

- Project 2007-23 — Violation Severity Levels (8 sets)
- Project 2008-08 — EOP Violation Severity Levels (1 set)

Recirculation ballot windows for nine sets of VSLs are now open **until 8 p.m. EDT on August 27, 2009**. Each set of VSLs has its own ballot.

Please note that corrections have been made to some wording in the VSLs. Some balloters noted errata in some of the VSLs that were posted for the initial ballot, and the drafting teams have agreed to make corrections for the recirculation ballots. There are new "redline to last approval," "redline to last posting," and "clean" versions posted for each set of VSLs. The edits are considered errata, not content revisions, allowing the VSLs to proceed to the recirculation ballot stage.

Instructions

Members of the ballot pools associated with these projects may log in and submit their votes from the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

Recirculation Ballot Process

The Standards Committee encourages all members of the ballot pool to review the consideration of comments submitted with the initial ballots. In the recirculation ballot, votes are counted by exception only — if a ballot pool member does not submit a revision to that member's original vote, the vote remains the same as in the first ballot. Members of the ballot pool may:

- Reconsider and change their vote from the first ballot.
- Vote in the second ballot even if they did not vote on the first ballot.
- Take no action if they do not want to change their original vote.

Next Steps

Voting results will be posted and announced after the ballot windows close.

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:

1. BAL (BAL-001 through BAL-006)
2. CIP, COM, and VAR
 - a. CIP-001
 - b. COM-001 and COM-002
 - c. VAR-001 and VAR-002
3. FAC and MOD
 - a. FAC-001, FAC-002, FAC-003, FAC-008, FAC-009, and FAC-013
 - b. MOD-006, MOD-007, MOD-010, MOD-012 and MOD-016 through MOD-021
4. INT, PER, and NUC
 - a. INT-001, INT-003 through INT-010
 - b. PER-001 through PER-004
 - c. NUC-001
5. IRO (IRO-001 through IRO-006 and IRO-014 through IRO-016)
6. PRC (PRC-001, PRC-004, PRC-005, PRC-007 through PRC-011, PRC-015 through PRC-018, PRC-021, and PRC-022)
7. TOP (TOP-001 through TOP-008)
8. 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.

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

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,
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