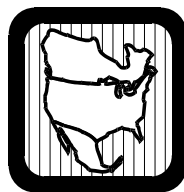


# **Election of Members of the NERC Standards Committee Procedure**



November 1, 2005

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## **Purpose**

This procedure is provided for use by the NERC Standards Registered Ballot Body to facilitate the election of industry stakeholder segment (Segment)<sup>1</sup> representatives to the NERC Standards Committee. This procedure is a default process that is available, on a voluntary basis, for the benefit of all Segments of the Registered Ballot Body. The use of alternative procedures is described in a later section.

## **Responsibilities for This Procedure**

The NERC Board of Trustees provides oversight of the election of Standards Committee members. The Board provides the authority for approval of this procedure and any revisions thereto, and monitors any Segment-specific procedures that may be developed to ensure they are consistent with established principles.

The Standards Committee shall be responsible for advising the Board regarding the use of this procedure or any revisions to the procedure.

Each Registered Ballot Body entity shall be responsible for actively participating in the nomination and election of Standards Committee representatives for each Segment in which the entity is a member.

The Standards Process Manager (SPM) shall administer the implementation and maintenance of this procedure.

## **Guiding Principles**

This procedure supports a standards development process that is open, inclusive, balanced, and fair. This procedure shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with NERC's mission of promoting the reliability of the North American bulk electric systems, NERC Reliability Standards Development Procedure, NERC's Reliability and Market Interface Principles, and maintaining good standing as a standards developer accredited by the American National Standards Institute.

## **Standards Committee Membership**

Each valid<sup>2</sup> Segment shall be eligible to elect two voting members to represent the Segment on the Standards Committee. A registered entity may provide only one Standards Committee member, irrespective of the number of segments in which the entity is registered. Each representative that is elected by a Segment to fill one of those positions shall serve on behalf of the Registered Ballot Body entities in that Segment. An eligible position on the committee that is not filled by a Segment shall be shown as vacant and shall not be counted in the determination of a quorum. Each elected member of the Standards Committee shall carry one vote.

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<sup>1</sup> Industry stakeholder Segment criteria and a list of entities in the NERC Standards Registered Ballot Body are provided at <https://www.nerc.net/standards/ballotbody/>. In this procedure, the term "Segment" shall mean one of the currently defined industry stakeholder Segments.

<sup>2</sup> Validity is determined by established Segment criteria, including the minimum number of entities in a Segment.

## **Standards Committee Membership Term**

The Standards Committee reports to the NERC Board of Trustees and is responsible for managing the NERC Reliability Standards Development Procedure and other duties as assigned by the Board.

The Standards Committee also serves for the benefit of the members of the Registered Ballot Body and is accountable to them through election by the Segment representatives. Standards Committee membership shall be for a term of two years, with members' terms staggered such that half of the member positions (one per Segment) are refilled each year by Segment election. Prior to the end of each term, nominations will be received and an election held in accordance with this procedure, or a qualified Segment procedure, to elect Standards Committee representatives for the next term. There is no limit on the number of two-year terms that a member of the Standards Committee may serve, although the setting of limits in the future is not precluded.

## **Standards Committee Officers**

At the beginning of each annual term, the Standards Committee shall as a first order of business elect a chairman and vice chairman to serve as officers and preside over the business of the committee. The officers shall serve a term of one year, without limit on the number of terms an officer may serve, although the setting of limits in the future is not precluded. The SPM serves as a non-voting member and secretary of the Standards Committee.

## **Standards Committee Scope and Conduct of Business**

The Standards Committee conducts its business in accordance with a separate scope document, the Reliability Standards Development Procedure, other applicable NERC procedures, and procedures that the committee itself may develop. This procedure addresses the nomination and election of members of the committee and is not intended to otherwise establish or limit the scope, authorities, or procedures of the committee.

## **Segment Representative Nominations**

Approximately 90 days prior to the start of each term, the SPM shall request nominations to fill Standards Committee positions that will become open with the expiration of the current term.

Notice of the nominations process shall be announced to the Registered Ballot Body and to others that may be interested in standards for the reliability of North American bulk electric systems. The SPM shall post the announcement on the NERC web page and distribute the announcement to applicable NERC e-mail lists. The announcement shall include a brief description of the responsibilities of the Standards Committee and estimates of the work effort and travel expected of Standards Committee members.

Any person or entity may submit a nomination. Self-nominations are encouraged.

To be eligible for nomination, a nominee shall be an employee or agent of an entity registered in the applicable Segment. To allow verification of affiliation, a nominee shall be a registered User in the NERC Registered Ballot Body. It is not required that the nominee be the same person as the entity's Registered Ballot Body representative for that Segment.

The SPM shall provide a method for the submittal of nominations, preferably an on-line nominations form using Internet protocols. The nomination form shall request the following information and other information that the SPM deems necessary to completing the election process:

***Nomination Information***

1. Segment for which the nomination is made.
2. Nominee name (selected from list of registrants).
3. Nominee job title.<sup>3</sup>
4. Nominee organization (must be an entity registered in the designated Segment).<sup>3</sup>
5. Nominee contact information: telephone, fax, e-mail, and mailing address.<sup>3</sup>
6. Nominee brief summary of qualifications related to serving on the Standards Committee (limited to a 3,000-character text box — approximately 500 words or one-page, single-spaced).
7. Indication (check box) that the nominee has been contacted and is willing to serve on the Standards Committee for a two-year term.
8. Person or entity making the nomination.
9. Contact information for person or entity making nomination: contact name, organization, telephone, fax, e-mail, and mailing address.

The SPM shall verify that each nomination received is complete and valid. The SPM may follow up with nominees to collect additional information.

In the event that multiple nominations are received for persons from a single entity within a Segment, that entity's representative shall determine which person will be the nominee from that entity.

The SPM shall post each nomination that is complete and valid. Each nomination shall be posted as soon as practical after it has been verified.

The nomination period shall remain open for 21 calendar days from the announced opening of the nominations, at which time the nominations shall be closed.

**Segment Representative Elections**

The SPM shall prepare a slate of nominees for each Segment. The Segment slate shall consist of all valid nominations received for that Segment, without prejudice in the method of listing the slate.

The SPM shall provide an electronic ballot form for each Segment, listing the slate of nominees. Each Registered Ballot Body entity in a Segment may cast one vote per Standards Committee member position being filled (i.e. one vote if one position is being filled and two votes if two positions are being filled). In the case that an entity casts two votes within a Segment, each vote

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<sup>3</sup> Information items 3–5 are provided automatically from the nominee during registration.

must be for a different candidate in that Segment (i.e. an entity cannot vote twice for a nominee within a Segment).

This ballot procedure is repeated for each Segment in which an entity is a member of the Registered Ballot Body. The ballot for each Segment is conducted independently from the ballots of other Segments. Only the entities in the Registered Ballot Body for a Segment may vote in that Segment.

The ballot period shall be announced to the Registered Ballot Body and to others that may be interested in standards for the reliability of North American bulk electric systems. The SPM shall post the announcement on the NERC web page and distribute the announcement to applicable NERC e-mail lists.

The ballot period shall remain open for ten calendar days from the announced opening of the ballot period, at which time the ballot period shall be closed.

Votes may be cast by the Registered Ballot Body Representative for each entity, or a proxy designated by the representative. An entity may vote in each Segment in which it is registered.

Ballot results shall remain confidential during the ballot period. As soon as practical after the close of the ballot period, the SPM shall publicly post the election results for each Segment, (i.e. the names of elected members and slates for any run-off elections that may be required).

## **Election Formula**

The elected Standards Committee member for each Segment shall be the nominee receiving the highest total number of votes, with the condition that the nominee must receive a vote from a simple majority of the entities casting a vote in that Segment. If the election is being held for two positions in a Segment, the nominees receiving the highest and second highest number of votes shall be elected, with the condition that each nominee must receive a vote from a simple majority of the entities casting a vote in that Segment<sup>4</sup>. In this case, if only one of the two nominees meets these criteria, then that nominee shall be deemed elected.

In the event that the election is incomplete in a Segment's first ballot (no candidate or only one candidate meets the criteria), then a second ballot will be conducted in that Segment, using a process similar to that previously described. If two positions are remaining to be filled in the second ballot, the slate of candidates shall consist of the four candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the first ballot. If one position is remaining to be filled in the second ballot, the slate shall consist of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. A candidate who was elected in the first ballot is considered elected and is excluded from the second ballot. In the event of a tie that precludes choosing the top four (or two) candidates, the slate will be expanded to include those candidates that are tied.

After the second ballot in the Segment, the candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to fill the remaining position(s) in that Segment.

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<sup>4</sup> Each entity in the Segment is allowed to cast two votes. This criterion means that more than fifty percent (>50%) of the entities cast one of their votes for that nominee.

In the event of a tie between two or more candidates after a second ballot, a run-off ballot may be used to break the tie. The position shall remain vacant until the tie is broken by the Segment.

## **Representation from Canada**

To achieve balance of representation between the United States and Canada on the basis of net energy for load (NEL), the following special procedure shall apply:

1. If any regular election of Standards Committee members does not result in at least two Canadian members being elected, the Canadian nominees receiving the next highest percentage of votes within their respective Segment(s) will be designated as members, as needed to achieve a total of two Canadian members;
2. Each such specially designated Canadian member of the Standards Committee shall have a one year term, as the Standards Committee holds elections each year and special designation of members should not interfere with the regular election process;
3. If any segment, as defined in Appendix B of the Reliability Standards Development Procedure, has an unfilled position following the annual Standards Committee election, the first preference is to assign each specially designated Canadian representative to an unfilled segment for which he or she qualifies;
4. Any such specially designated members of the Standards Committee shall have the same rights and obligations as all other members of the Standards Committee;
5. For the purpose of the Standards Committee election process, Canadian representation shall be defined as: any company or association incorporated in Canada, any agency of a federal, provincial, or local government in Canada, or any person with Canadian citizenship.

## **Special Elections**

Between regularly scheduled elections, a Segment may hold a special election to replace an existing member or fill a vacant position. A special election request may be requested by petition of ten entities or 25% of the entities registered in a Segment, whichever is less. It is the responsibility of the requester(s) to collect the requisite number of signatories to the petition and submit it to the SPM.

If SPM receives a valid petition for a special election, the SPM shall request that the Segment ratify the need for a special election. Ratification requires approval by a two-thirds majority of the entities registered in the Segment. If the request is ratified by the Segment, the SPM shall initiate the request for nominations and election as described later in this procedure.

## **Alternative Procedures**

This procedure is provided as the default method for Segments to elect representatives to the Standards Committee. Alternative procedures may be used by a Segment, or jointly by several Segments. Such a procedure shall be consistent with the principles noted in this document. Such a procedure shall be ratified by at least two-thirds of the registered entities in each Segment in which it will be applied, and is subject to review by the NERC Board.

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