

NERC News

December 2008

HEADLINE NEWS

Revised Phase I Cyber Security Standards Under Review

December 11, 2008

As part of its efforts to better address cyber security and critical infrastructure protection, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and its Cyber Security Standard Drafting Team have recently released phase one of proposed revisions to eight Critical Infrastructure Protection reliability standards for industry comment and review.

(continued on page 2)

NERC Alerts Program Passes Key Milestone

December 22, 2008

With an over 94% response rate for its latest Recommendation to Industry, NERC's alerts program has passed a key milestone in its improvement process. The launch of a new online acknowledgment and reporting tool, along with modifications to the alerts templates, has enabled NERC to accurately track non-respondent entities to ensure appropriate follow up is made.

NERC will be hosting a second "Alerts Webinar" for those who may have missed the initial (Nov. 20th) presentation. Those who attended the first session need not attend the second. Visit <http://www.nerc.com/page.php?cid=61831187> to register. ■■■

Career Opportunities at NERC

NERC currently has a number of exciting career opportunities available. [Click here](#) to view.

NERC Trivia

Does it cost more to turn on a light than to leave it on?
(see page 4 for the answer)

2003-2007 Generating Availability Report Now Available

December 5, 2008

The Generating Availability Data System (GADS) issued its annual Generating Availability Report in December. The report has been released annually since 1982 and provides a statistical report on five-year average generating unit availability for 63 different categories of generating units. The report is used in a number of countries throughout the world for comparing the performance of generating plants.

View report at:

<http://www.nerc.com/page.php?cid=4143147> ■■■

NERC Continues to File Notices of Penalty

December 12, 2008

New notices of penalty are now available at:

<http://www.nerc.com/filez/enforcement/index.html>

■■■

New Way to Reach NERC Staff Directly

December 31, 2008

Beginning January 12, NERC will change its call handling process. Callers dialing the 609-452-8060 number will be greeted by an auto attendant and directed to enter the phone extension of the person they wish to speak with. Callers also have the option to press * for a staff directory or 0 for the receptionist.

■■■

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Revised Phase I Cyber Security Standards Under Review

(continued from page 1)

Scheduled to be filed with regulatory organizations for final approval this spring, phase I revisions address a number of wording changes to the existing standards as specifically outlined in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Order 706, released in January 2008. Importantly, the proposed modifications to the standards address the directive in Order 706 to "remove references to reasonable business judgment (in the standards) before compliance audits begin in 2009." This phase also closes a key gap in the existing standards, specifying a compliance schedule for newly identified critical assets.

The initial comment period for Phase I revisions closed on January 5, 2009. The drafting team will be reviewing these comments at their upcoming meetings.

Work on Phase II has already begun and will result in more significant revisions which may change some of the philosophical foundations of the standards. These efforts will include a more thorough evaluation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology standards and risk management framework and their applicability to the bulk power system.

"Developing the multi-phase approach has enabled us to address pressing concerns around the existing standards in the short term while devoting the appropriate resources to thoroughly address more complex revisions in the long term," commented Jeri D. Brewer of the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the Chair of the Cyber Security Standard Drafting Team. "We are firmly committed to drafting stronger standards that will better protect our continent's bulk power system infrastructure and achieving this goal on a schedule that will make these standards mandatory and enforceable promptly and effectively."

"These phase I revisions represent an unprecedented effort to improve existing standards in a short, two-month revision cycle and are evidence of the volunteer-based team's dedication to this important

work," commented Gerry Adamski, Vice President of Standards Development at NERC. "We all recognize, however, that there is still much work to be done. I am confident that industry-based standards development process will meet the high expectations set out for this critical project and look forward to working closely with the drafting team as this project progresses."

View standards at:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project_2008-06_Cyber_Security.html ■■■

Attend NERC's Upcoming Webinars

Alerts Webinar
January 22, 2009
11:00 AM Eastern

Demand Response
January 27, 2009
11:00 AM Eastern

Registration is complimentary, but space is limited so register today at: <http://www.nerc.com/page.php?cid=61831187>

STANDARDS NEWS

Standards Committee Election Results

The final list of Standards Committee election results for 2009 is listed below.

- Segment 1** — Jason Shaver
American Transmission Company (2009-10)
- Segment 2** — Terry Bilke
Midwest ISO Inc. (2009-10)
- Segment 3** — Ronald G. Parsons
Alabama Power Company (2009-10)
- Segment 4** — John D. Martinsen
Snohomish County PUD #1 (2009-10)
- Segment 5** — Michael Gildea
Constellation Energy (2009-10)
- Segment 5** — Thomas Bradish
Reliant Energy Services (2008-9)
- Segment 6** — W. Shannon Black
Sacramento Municipal Utility District (2009-10)
- Segment 7** — John A. Anderson
Electric Consumers Resource Council (2009-10)
- Segment 7** — Robert J. Nelson
Siemens Energy (2008-9)
- Segment 8** — Brendan Kirby
Consultant (2009-10)
- Segment 9** — Diane Barney
New York State Dept. of Public Service (2009-10)
- Segment 10** — Steve Rueckert
Western Electricity Coordinating Council (2009-10)
- Canadian Representative** — David Kiguel
Hydro One Networks Inc.

COMPLIANCE NEWS

Public Notice on Vegetation-Related Transmission Outage Reporting

Due to the potential severity of transmission outages caused by vegetation associated with Standard FAC-003-1, NERC is encouraging each Transmission Owner to self-report all Category 1 and Category 2 transmission outages related to vegetation to the Regional Entity within 48 hours utilizing the 48-hour vegetation reporting notice form provided by your appropriate Regional Entity. These forms can be found on the appropriate Regional Entity website and you should contact your Regional Entity if you have questions regarding the submission of this information.

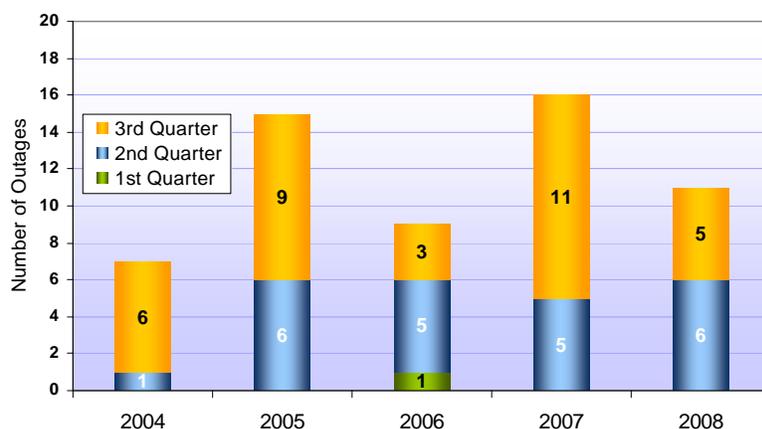
Notice available at: http://www.nerc.com/files/2008-Public_Notice_001_v1.pdf

Third Quarter 2008 Vegetation-Related Transmission Outages

NERC released its third quarter 2008 Vegetation-Related Transmission Outage Report on November 11, 2008. There were a total of 5 “Category 1 – Grow-in” outages, zero “Category 2 – Fall in” outages, and 6 “Category 3 – Fall-in” outages. This represents a significant decrease in “Category 1 – Grow-in” outages from the same quarter in 2007 where 11 outages were caused by trees growing into lines inside the right-of-way zone.

Category 3 outages are not considered to be violations of NERC standard FAC-003-1.

This report can be found on the NERC website at: <http://www.nerc.com/files/Q3%202008%20Vegetation%20Report.pdf>



Category 1 — Grow-ins from within the Right of Way

FILINGS & ORDERS

NERC Filings to Canadian Authorities

(click on the filing to view)

December 19, 2008

Revised 2009 Business Plan and Budget (All Provinces)

NERC Filings to FERC

(click on the filing to view)

December 19, 2008

Justification for Inconsistencies in Binary Requirements VSL

Docket Nos. RR08-4-000, RR08-4-001 and RR08-4-002

December 19, 2008

Response to November 20 Order on Rehearing and Clarification and Accepting Compliance Filing: Violation Severity Levels

Docket Nos. RR08-4-000, RR08-4-001 and RR08-4-002

December 19, 2008

Violation Risk Factors for 31 Requirements or Sub-Requirements in Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards (CIP-002-1 through CIP-009-1)

Docket No. RM06-22-000

December 15, 2008

Response to the October 16, 2008 Order on the 2009 Business Plan and Budget

Docket Nos. RR08-6 and RR07-14

December 1, 2008

Errata: DOE/PPPO's intervention and comments

Docket No. RC08-5-001

FERC Orders to Note

(click on the order to view)

December 19, 2008

Order Accepting Compliance Filings, subject to conditions: Delegation Agreements

Accepts NERC's Compliance Filings referencing revisions to NERC's pro forma delegation agreement and the individual Regional Entity delegation agreements.

Docket Nos. RR06-016 and RR06-1-017, et al.

December 18, 2008

Order Upholding ERO Compliance Registry Determination and Conditionally Directing Additional Registration: Southeastern Power Administration

Denies Southeastern Power Administration's appeal of a June 2008 compliance registry decision, which affirmed the registration of SEPA as a transmission operator in the SERC Region. Also concludes that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be co-registered as a transmission operator to address a potential reliability gap.

Docket No. RC08-1-001

December 18, 2008

Order Directing the Submission of Data: BPS Facilities in NPCC

Directs NERC and the Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Inc. to submit a comprehensive list of bulk electric system facilities within the United States portion of the NPCC region.

Docket No. RC09-3-000

NERC Trivia

No. There's no power surge when you turn on a light. Turning a light off always saves electricity, even if it's for just a second.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Accommodating High Levels of Variable Generation

Excerpted from draft report by NERC's Integration of Variable Generation Task Force

As policy and regulations on Greenhouse Gas emissions, notably CO₂, and mandated Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) are being developed by states and provinces throughout North America, the addition of renewable generation into the bulk power system is expected to grow considerably in the near future. The level of commitment to renewables offers benefits such as new generation resources, fuel diversification, and greenhouse gas reductions, and also presents significant new challenges to bulk power system reliability that need to be properly addressed. Unlike traditional mostly non-renewable resources, the output of the wind, solar, ocean and some hydro generation resources varies according to the availability of the primary fuel (wind, sunlight and moving water) that cannot be reasonably stored. Therefore, these resources are considered variable, following the availability of the primary fuel source.

There are two overarching attributes of variable generation that can impact the reliability of the bulk power system:

Variability: The output of variable generation changes according to the availability of the primary fuel (wind, sunlight and water motion) resulting in increased fluctuations in the plant output on all time scales.

Uncertainty: The ability to forecast the magnitude and phase (i.e. timing) of variable generation output is less predictable than for conventional generation.

It is necessary to understand the reliability impacts associated with the large scale integration of variable generation and determine practices, standards, approaches, tools and other requirements necessary to reliably integrate these resources into the bulk power system. Given the potential reliability impacts of large scale integration of variable generation, changes will be required to traditional methods used for bulk power

system planning and operations to ensure ongoing reliability of the bulk power system.

Reliable power system operation requires ongoing balancing of supply and demand at every moment in time in accordance to prevailing operating criteria. Power system planners and operators are already familiar with a certain amount of variability and uncertainty, particularly as it relates to system demand and, to a lesser extent, with conventional generation. However, large scale integration of variable generation can significantly alter familiar patterns for a system planner and operator, mainly due to its variability and uncertainty. These resources are not fully dispatchable, thereby requiring the use of other controllable or dispatchable resources to balance the supply and demand.

In addition, many of the regions in North America that are well suited to wind generation (i.e. offering a high capacity factor) tend to be in remote regions. This presents a challenge for integrating wind resources into the bulk power system due to a lack of transmission infrastructure. Transmission is also critical in delivering the ramping and ancillary services from a large base of generation across a broad geographical/electric region to keep the supply and demand of electric energy in balance.

Anticipating the growth of variable generation, in December 2007, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) Planning and Operating Committees created the Integration of Variable generation Task Force, charging it with preparing a report to identify; 1) technical considerations for integrating variable resources into the bulk power system, and 2) specific actions for practices and requirements, including reliability standards.

This Special Report, [*Accommodating High Levels of Variable Generation*](#) describes the characteristics of variable generation and identifies changes to planning and operations practices techniques and tools required to reliably integrate large amounts of variable generation into the bulk power system.

This report is now under review, with final release anticipated in spring 2009. ■■■

CAREERS AT NERC

Compliance Investigator

Location TBD

Details:

<http://www.nerc.com/files/Compliance%20Investigator.pdf>

Engineer of Organization Registration

Princeton, NJ

Details:

<http://www.nerc.com/files/Engineer%20of%20organization%20registration.pdf>

Engineer of Reliability Assessments

Princeton, NJ

Details:

<http://www.nerc.com/files/engineer%20of%20reliability%20assessments.pdf>

Engineer of Reliability Performance and Events Analysis

Princeton, NJ

Details:

<http://www.nerc.com/files/EngineerofReliabilityPerformanceandEventsAnalysis.pdf>

Manager of Critical Infrastructure Protection

Princeton, NJ

Details: <http://www.nerc.com/files/ManagerofCIP.doc>

Policy Analyst

Washington, DC

Details:

<http://www.nerc.com/files/Policy%20Analyst.doc>

Regional Compliance Auditor

Location TBD

Details:

<http://www.nerc.com/files/Regional%20Compliance%20Auditor.pdf>

Regional Compliance Program Auditor

Location TBD

Details:

<http://www.nerc.com/files/RegionalComplianceProgramAuditor.pdf>

Senior Engineer of Reliability Performance and Events Analysis

Princeton, NJ

Details:

<http://www.nerc.com/files/SeniorEngineerofReliabilityPerformanceandEventsAnalysis.pdf>

Standards Compliance and Regulatory Coordinator

Princeton, NJ

Details:

<http://www.nerc.com/files/StandardsComplianceandRegulatoryCoordinator.pdf>

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