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Compliance Audit Report

Public Version

Exeter Energy LP

NCR07083

July 24 to August 18, 2009

**Confidential Information (including Privileged
and Critical Energy Infrastructure Information)
Has Been Removed**

8/18/2009

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Executive Summary

This final compliance audit report is the public version. Confidential information (including privileged and critical energy infrastructure information) has been redacted from this report. The full final compliance audit report was submitted to the audited entity and NERC.

The off-site compliance audit of Exeter Energy LP (Exeter), NERC ID #07083 was conducted between July 24 and August 18, 2009. At the time of the audit, Exeter was registered for the GO and GOP functions. The audit team evaluated Exeter for compliance with thirty-one requirements in thirteen NERC Reliability Standards in the 2009 NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP). The audit reviewed reliability standards identified in the NERC 2009 Implementation Plan for the audit period of the current year and previous from June 18, 2007, unless a different retention period is specified in an individual reliability standard. Exeter Energy LP submitted information and documentation to aid the audit team's evaluation of compliance with requirements and provided subject matter experts for the standards resulting in a more clear understanding of the Exeter Energy LP business model, which helped accelerate the audit process. When the evidence provided to demonstrate compliance or non-applicability required additional requests for information and evidence, the Exeter Energy LP team responded to these requests in an expeditious manner. The audit was conducted using the data submitted by Exeter Energy LP as well as telephone and email data exchanges. The audit team reviewed and evaluated all information provided by Exeter Energy LP to assess compliance with the standards applicable to the Generator Owner (GO) and Generator Operator (GOP) functions.

The audit team evaluated Exeter Energy LP on 60 requirements and sub-requirements in 13 Reliability Standards. Based on the information and documentation provided by Exeter Energy LP, the audit team found Exeter Energy LP to be compliant with 45 of 60 applicable requirements and sub-requirements and 12 of the 13 applicable NERC Reliability Standards. The audit team determined that 15 requirements and sub-requirements and 1 NERC Reliability Standard were not applicable to Exeter Energy LP.

There were no ongoing or recently completed mitigation plans and, therefore, none were reviewed by the audit team.

All additional information requested was provided promptly and comprehensively. The audit team would like to thank the Exeter Energy LP team for the support offered throughout the audit.

Audit Process

The compliance audit process steps are detailed in the NERC CMEP. The NERC CMEP generally conforms to the United States Government Accountability Office Government Auditing Standards and other generally accepted audit practices.

Objectives

All registered entities are subject to audit for compliance with all reliability standards applicable to the functions for which the registered entity is registered.¹ The audit objectives are to:

- Independently review Exeter Energy LP's compliance with the requirements of the reliability standards that are applicable to Exeter Energy LP based on Exeter Energy LP's registered function.
- Validate compliance with applicable reliability standards from the NERC 2009 Implementation Plan list of actively monitored standards and additional NERC reliability standards selected by NERC.
- Validate compliance with applicable Regional Standards from the NPCC 2009 Implementation Plan list of actively monitored standards.
- Validate evidence of self-reported violations and previous self-certifications and confirm compliance with other requirements of the reliability standard.
- Review the status of associated mitigation plans.
- Observe and document Exeter Energy LP's compliance program and culture.

Scope

The audit included all standards identified in the May 15, 2009 audit letter for the previous year. The audit was a regularly scheduled audit and no self-reported violations, made pre or post June 18, 2007, mitigation plans, previous audits, or compliance investigations were involved. There were no separate requests made by Compliance Enforcement to the entity to supply information as it pertains to compliance other than for this regularly scheduled audit.

At the time of the audit, Exeter was registered for GO and GOP functions. The audit team evaluated Exeter for compliance during the period of June 18, 2007 to August 18, 2009.

¹ North American Electric Reliability Corporation CMEP, paragraph 3.1, Compliance Audits

Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest of the audit team are governed under the Delegation Agreement with NERC and Section 1500 of the NERC Rules of Procedure. Confidentiality agreements executed by the independent contractors and code of conduct documentation for the NERC representative and regional entity staff were provided to the audited entity in advance of the audit. The audited entity was given an opportunity to object to an audit team member on the basis of a possible conflict of interest or the existence of other circumstances that could interfere with the audit team member's impartial performance of duties. The audited entity accepted the audit team member participants with no objections.

Off-site Audit

Exeter Energy LP was provided with a pre-audit request letter identifying the standards and requirements subject to audit for the Generator Owner (GO) and Generator Operator (GOP) functions, which included CIP-001-1 R1, R2, R3, R4; COM-002-2 R1; FAC-008-1 R1, R2, R3; FAC-009-1 R1, R2; IRO-001-1 R8; IRO-004-1 4; IRO-005 R13; PRC-001-1 R1, R2, R3, R5; PRC-004-1 R2, R3; PRC-005-1 R1, R2; PRC-017 R1, R2; TOP-001-1 R3, R6, R7; and TOP-002-2 R3, R13, R14, R15, R18. The audit letter was sent to Exeter Energy LP more than 60 days in advance of the scheduled audit.

This is an off-site audit conducted every six years or as determined to be necessary by the region. Exeter Energy LP had no self-reported violations, made pre or post June 18, 2007, no mitigation plans, previous audits or compliance investigations, and there were no requests made to the entity to supply information as it pertains to compliance other than for this audit.

The audit team leader requested that Exeter Energy LP employees representing subject matter expertise regarding the registered functions of Exeter Energy LP be made available for interviews should the need arise. These interviews, in conjunction with evidence submitted, would then provide the audit team with a basis for professional judgment when validating compliance with reliability standards.

Generally accepted government auditing standard 3.31 - Auditors must use professional judgment in planning and performing audits and attestation engagements and in reporting the results.

Generally accepted government auditing standard 3.39 places responsibility on each auditor and audit organization to exercise professional judgment in planning and

performing an audit or attestation engagement; it does not imply unlimited responsibility nor does it imply infallibility on the part of either the individual auditor or the audit organization. Absolute assurance is not attainable because of the nature of evidence and the characteristics of fraud. Professional judgment does not mean eliminating all possible limitations or weaknesses associated with a specific audit but rather identifying, considering, minimizing, mitigating, and explaining them.

Methodology

The audit team prepared reliability standards audit worksheets (RSAWs) to evaluate each standard. The RSAWs are used to ensure consistency and to document evidence of compliance, non-compliance or non-applicability with the standards. All relevant documents are considered and to the extent they form a portion of the audit trail are included in the RSAWs.

Audit Overview

The auditor reviewed his career and noted that he had signed a confidentiality agreement. A brief explanation of the audit process was given and the audit timelines were discussed. The auditor stated that the auditors have the ability and authority to expand the audit beyond the initial set of the standards and requirements identified in the audit notification letter should the need arise. The auditors also stated that corroborating evidence from other entities might be required to substantiate Exeter Energy LP's compliance.

Exeter Energy LP was given the opportunity to reject the auditor should they feel that there was a possible conflict of interest, any concerns regarding the auditor's background or if they thought that the auditor would not be impartial. Exeter Energy LP accepted the auditor.

Audit

The auditor performed the audit off-site. The auditor reviewed the information submitted by Exeter Energy LP and then developed a list of questions and requests for further information; the list was then sent to Exeter Energy LP for their review. Exeter Energy LP then took the time necessary to gather the required information and submitted the information back to the auditor via email.

Exit Briefing

The exit briefing was conducted via conference call at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2009. The teleconference was between the NPCC auditor and Exeter Energy LP. The NPCC staff reviewed the audit process and summarized the findings of the audit for each standard and requirement. After reviewing all the data, the audit team found Exeter Energy LP to be compliant with 45 of 60 applicable requirements and sub-requirements and 12 of the 13 applicable NERC Reliability Standards. The audit team determined that 15 requirements and sub-requirements and 1 NERC Reliability Standard were not applicable to Exeter Energy LP.

Exeter Energy LP was presented an opportunity to question the audit findings and provide comments on the audit. The auditor provided some ways for Exeter to enhance their management of data evidence.

Company Profile

Exeter Energy Limited Partnership is indirectly owned by CMS Energy Corporation. CMS Energy Corporation owns Consumers Energy Company, a Michigan utility with approximately 13 million electric customers and CMS Enterprises Company, which owns eight generation facilities (whole or part) in Michigan, Connecticut, California and North Carolina; CMS Exeter LLC is the sole general partner.

Audit Specifics

The compliance audit was conducted from July 24 to August 18, 2009 at NPCC offices in New York City, New York.

Audit Team Role	Title	Company
Lead	Contracted Consultant	NPCC-Compliance Audit Program
Member	Manager Compliance Audit Program	NPCC-Compliance Audit Program

Exeter Energy LP

Title	Organization
General Manager	Exeter Energy LP

Audit Results

Exeter Energy LP provided data used to demonstrate their compliance or non-applicability with the standards identified in the audit letter from NPCC. When the auditor had additional questions, emails were used to request additional documentation.

The audit team prepared reliability standards audit worksheets (RSAWs) to evaluate each standard. The RSAWs are used to ensure consistency and to document evidence of compliance, non-compliance or non-applicability with the standards. All relevant documents are considered and to the extent they form a portion of the audit trail are included in the RSAWs.

After reviewing all the data, the audit team found Exeter Energy LP to be compliant with 45 of 60 applicable requirements and sub-requirements and 12 of 13 applicable NERC Reliability Standards. The audit team determined that 15 requirements and sub-requirements and 1 NERC Reliability Standard were not applicable to Exeter Energy LP.

Findings

The following table details findings for compliance with the reliability standards listed in the NERC 2009 Implementation Plan.

Reliability Standard	Requirement	Finding
CIP-001-1	R1	Compliant
CIP-001-1	R2	Compliant
CIP-001-1	R3	Compliant
CIP-001-1	R4	Compliant
COM-002-2	R1	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R1	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R1.1	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R1.2	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R1.2.1	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R1.2.2	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R1.3	Lead in Statement
FAC-008-1	R1.3.1	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R1.3.2	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R1.3.3	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R1.3.4	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R1.3.5	Compliant
FAC-008-1	R2	Not Applicable
FAC-008-1	R3	Not Applicable
FAC-009-1	R1	Compliant

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FAC-009-1	R2	Compliant
IRO-001-1	R8	Compliant
IRO-004-1	R4	Compliant
IRO-005-1	R13	Compliant
PRC-001-1	R1	Compliant
PRC-001-1	R2	Lead in Statement
PRC-001-1	R2.1	Compliant
PRC-001-1	R3	Compliant
PRC-001-1	R3.1	Compliant
PRC-001-1	R5	Not Applicable
PRC-001-1	R5.1	Not Applicable
PRC-004-1	R2	Compliant
PRC-004-1	R3	Compliant
PRC-005-1	R1	Compliant
PRC-005-1	R1.1	Compliant
PRC-005-1	R1.2	Compliant
PRC-005-1	R2	Compliant
PRC-005-1	R2.1	Compliant
PRC-005-1	R2.2	Compliant
PRC-017-0	R1	Not Applicable
PRC-017-0	R1.1	Not Applicable
PRC-017-0	R1.1.1	Not Applicable
PRC-017-0	R1.1.2	Not Applicable
PRC-017-0	R1.1.3	Not Applicable
PRC-017-0	R1.1.4	Not Applicable
PRC-017-0	R1.2	Not Applicable
PRC-017-0	R1.3	Not Applicable
PRC-017-0	R1.4	Not Applicable
PRC-017-0	R1.5	Not Applicable
PRC-017-0	R2	Not Applicable
TOP-001-1	R3	Compliant
TOP-001-1	R6	Compliant
TOP-001-1	R7	Compliant
TOP-001-1	R7.1	Compliant
TOP-001-1	R7.3	Compliant
TOP-002-2	R3	Compliant
TOP-002-2	R13	Compliant
TOP-002-2	R14	Compliant
TOP-002-2	R14.1	Compliant
TOP-002-2	R14.2	Compliant
TOP-002-2	R15	Compliant
TOP-002-2	R18	Compliant

Compliance Culture

The audit team reviewed the Exeter Energy LP's compliance culture. Exeter Energy LP participates in the internal compliance program of its parent company, CMS Energy Corporation. CMS Energy Corporation has a well-documented compliance function, which emphasizes decentralized accountability and centralized oversight. The Accountable Authorities report quarterly to senior management, including the CCO, on compliance issues and status at the CMS Enterprises Compliance Review Committee. During all contacts, Exeter Energy LP's representatives were very professional and positive in their approach to compliance and understood the importance of the compliance and its role in maintaining reliability. All additional information requested was provided promptly and comprehensively.