

# NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## About NERC & Reliability Standards

Since 1968, NERC has been committed to ensuring the reliability of the North American bulk power system.

To achieve that, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) develops and enforces reliability standards; assesses adequacy annually via a 10-year forecast and winter and summer forecasts; monitors the bulk power system; audits owners, operators, and users for preparedness; and educates, trains, and certifies industry personnel. NERC is a self-regulatory organization, subject to oversight by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and governmental authorities in Canada.

As of June 18, 2007, the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted NERC the legal authority to enforce reliability standards with all U.S. users, owners, and operators of the bulk power system, and made compliance with those standards mandatory and enforceable. Reliability standards are also mandatory and enforceable in Ontario and New Brunswick, and NERC is seeking to achieve comparable results in the other Canadian provinces. NERC will seek recognition in Mexico once the necessary legislation is adopted.

NERC reliability standards define the reliability requirements for planning and operating the North American bulk power system. NERC's ANSI-accredited standards development process is defined in the Reliability Standards Development Procedure and is guided by reliability and market interface principles. The Reliability Functional Model defines the functions that need to be performed to ensure the bulk electric system operates reliably, and is the foundation upon which the reliability standards are based.

NERC's Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program works to ensure compliance by all bulk power system owners, operators, and users with NERC reliability standards. Bulk power system users, owners, and operators are required to register with NERC and report all violations of NERC standards to their regional reliability office. NERC also actively monitors registered entities for compliance with a select number of reliability standards.

## Fast Facts

**Founded:** 1968

**Serving:** 334 million people

**Employees:** 85 and growing

### Activities:

- Creates reliability standards
- Enforces compliance
- Monitors system status
- Analyzes system events
- Collects & provides data
- Forecasts future reliability
- Identifies trends & issues
- Certifies system operators

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