

# Appendix I - GADS Data Release Guidelines

---

## Introduction

The NERC Generating Availability Data System (GADS) contains information which can be broadly classified into two categories: design data, which is descriptive of the physical and operational characteristics of equipment, and performance and event data, which constitutes a record of equipment availability over a period of time.

The design data is unrestricted and available to power generators, equipment suppliers and manufacturers, architect-engineers and consultants, industry organizations (EEI, EPRI, INPO, etc.), federal governmental organizations, and state and local governmental organizations.

To avoid the potential misuse of individual equipment data, the performance and event data are restricted and available only as specified in these guidelines.

## Data Release Guidelines

NERC has some restrictions on providing GADS data about power generators, pools, Regions, or specific units. If you wish to obtain GADS data about these things, you must obtain authorization from the appropriate power generator. Power generators are any owners or operators of electric generating units. Examples of power generators include: investors, independent power projects (IPP), municipalities, cooperatives, the federal government, state governments, or any other group of electricity providers. NERC will only provide special reports or studies that describe or rank power generators, pools, or Regions with the authorization of that party. Obtaining this approval is the responsibility of the requester.

Special reports or studies which describe or rank power generators, pools, or Regions by performance or other attributes – and in which specific units, power generators, pools, or regions are identifiable either by inclusion or exclusion – will be provided only with the authorization of the appropriate power generators, pools, or regions. Obtaining these approvals is the responsibility of the requester.

The "standard publication" mentioned in the following paragraphs is that approved and recognized as such by the NERC Planning Committee. The current publication is the GADS Statistical Brochure. The latest versions can be downloaded from the [NERC website](#)<sup>i</sup>.

## Power Generation Representatives

Power generator owners and operators who report GADS data for all units outlined in the *GADS Data Reporting Instructions* Table III-1 may receive any special data analyses or data analysis-type software products like pc-GAR or standard publication without restriction. Large amounts of power generator, pool, Region, or specific unit data will be provided only with the permission of the appropriate power generator, pool, or Region. Power generator representatives are understood to refer to employees of the member power generators, power pools, or regional entities.

Power generator owners/operators who do not report any GADS data or only part of the full sets of unit data as outlined in the *GADS Data Reporting Instructions* Table III-1 (shown as "required" for the different unit types) may only receive standard publications but will not receive any special data analyses or data analysis-type software products like pc-GAR.

### **Manufacturers and Equipment Suppliers**

Manufacturers and equipment suppliers may receive the standard publication. They may also receive individual analyses and outage records concerning the equipment they supplied as well as total unit performance statistics. National, regional, or local summary analyses of the manufacturer's or equipment supplier's equipment compared to all others as a group can be provided. These analyses may collectively review all competitors, but will not identify an individual competitor; nor will they rank competitors, power generators, pools, or NERC Regions without their specific authorization.

### **Architect-Engineers and Consultants**

Architect-engineers and consultants may receive the standard publication. They may also receive individual analyses and outage records concerning the equipment they designed or installed as well as total unit performance statistics for those same units. National, regional, or local grouped units summary analyses on the performance of the architect-engineer's or consultant's units compared to all others as a group can be provided. These analyses may collectively review all competitors but will not identify an individual competitor; nor will they rank competitors, power generators, pools, or Regions without their specific authorization. If an architect-engineer or consultant is under contract to a power generator client, that architect-engineer or consultant may receive any information the power generator may receive as long as the client power generator is identified and approves.

### **Industry Organizations (EEI, EPRI, INPO, etc.)**

Industry organizations such as EEI, EPRI, and INPO may receive the standard publication. They may also receive any analyses that do not identify individual units, power generators, pools, or Regions.

### **Federal Governmental Organizations**

Federal governmental organizations may receive the standard publication. They may also receive any analyses that do not identify individual units, power generators, pools, or Regions.

### **State and Local Governmental Organizations**

State and local governmental organizations may receive the standard publication. They may also receive any analyses that do not identify individual units, power generators, pools, or Regions. Responses to requests for unit, power generator, pool, or regional specific data will be coordinated through the appropriate power generator(s), pool(s), or Region(s).

### **Non-Industry Organizations**

Non-industry organizations may receive the standard publication. They may also receive any analyses that do not identify individual units, power generators, pools, or regions. Responses to requests for unit, power generator, pool, or regional specific data will be coordinated through the appropriate power generator(s), pool(s), or Region(s).

### **Foreign Correspondents**

Foreign correspondents may receive the standard publication. They may also receive grouped analyses at the discretion of the NERC staff.

### **Subsequent Use of Data**

Publication or re-transmittal by those who have received GADS data, reports, or analyses specific to individual or identifiable units, power generators, pools, or regions is considered a matter separate and distinct from requesting such data for the internal use of the requester. As such, authorization for publication must be expressly obtained by the requester from the appropriate power generator(s), pool(s), NERC Region(s), and NERC.

### **Responding to Requests**

All requests must be submitted in writing and will be answered on a timely basis with special attention given to requests identified as urgent.

---

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/gads/Pages/Reports.aspx>