

Standards Announcement

Bulk Electric System Definition Revision Status

Background

On November 18, 2010 FERC issued [Order 743](#) and directed NERC to revise the definition of Bulk Electric System (BES) so that the definition encompasses all Elements and Facilities necessary for the reliable operation and planning of the interconnected bulk power system. Additional specificity will reduce ambiguity and establish consistency across all Regions in distinguishing between BES and non-BES Elements and Facilities.

In addition, NERC was directed to develop a process for identifying any Elements or Facilities that should be excluded from the BES. NERC is working to address these directives with two activities – the definition of Bulk Electric System (BES) is being revised through the standard development process and a BES Definition Exception Process is being developed as a proposed modification to the NERC Rules of Procedure.

Teams

Two teams have been formed to develop the products needed to respond to Order 743. The first team is a drafting team working under the direction of the Standards Committee. This team is called the BES Definition Team (BES DT) and its work is publicly posted on the following web page with a link to toggle between the work of this team and the work of the BES Rules of Procedure Team:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project2010-17_BES.html

The second team is working under the direction of NERC staff and is called the BES Rule of Procedure Team (BES ROP). Its work is publicly posted on the following web page with a link to toggle between the work of this team and the work of the BES Definition Team:

http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Rules_of_Procedure-RF.html

Deliverables

The Standards Committee and the Standards staff have received many comments concerning the division of work between these two teams. The leadership of the BES Definition SDT and Rules of Procedure team met with the leadership of the Standards Program and the Standards Committee and determined that the BES Definition SDT will assume responsibility for working with stakeholders to identify what evidence is needed to support a request for an exception to the BES definition. The BES Definition team will solicit stakeholder input to identify the evidence an entity will need to provide when submitting a request for an exception to the definition of BES.

Product	BES Definition Team	BES Rule of Procedure Team
Revised BES Definition	X	
Identification of evidence needed to support a request for an exception to the BES definition	X	
Addition to Rule of Procedure		X
Implementation Plan	X	X

While the determination of what evidence will be needed to support a request for a BES Definition Exception will be developed using NERC's standard development process, a decision on where the final product will reside - in the definition of BES, or as an attachment (e.g., a procedure identifying what evidence to produce when applying for a BES exception) to the Rules of Procedure will be made jointly by the leadership of the Standards Program and the Standards Committee at a later stage. Given the time constraints of this project, having all the technical content associated with this project developed by a single team seemed the most efficient decision.

Status

The BES Definition Team has posted its consideration of the comments submitted in response to questions about the SAR, initial draft definition, and list of criteria for either inclusion or exclusion from the definition of BES. The team has also posted its next draft of the definition of BES and will be posting a comment form in mid-April to collect stakeholder feedback on the revised definition.

The BES ROP Team has been meeting and expects to post a draft of its proposed ROP in late April for stakeholder feedback.

Members of the two teams are sharing information and ideas and working cooperatively to ensure cohesion in the final products.

For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson,
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