

April 29, 2011

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20426

RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Re: NERC Abbreviated Notice of Penalty regarding Unidentified Registered Entity, FERC Docket No. NP11-__-000

Dear Ms. Bose:

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) hereby provides this Abbreviated Notice of Penalty (NOP) regarding Unidentified Registered Entity (URE), with information and details regarding the nature and resolution of the violations¹ discussed in detail in the Settlement Agreement (Attachment a) and the Disposition Documents (Attachment b), in accordance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission or FERC) rules, regulations and orders, as well as NERC Rules of Procedure including Appendix 4C (NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP)).²

This NOP is being filed with the Commission because Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) and URE have entered into a Settlement Agreement to resolve all outstanding issues arising from WECC's determination and findings of the violations of CIP-002-1 R1.2 and COM-002-2 R2. According to the Settlement Agreement, URE agrees and stipulates to the violation, and has agreed to the assessed penalty of thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000), in addition to other remedies and actions to mitigate the instant violations and facilitate future compliance under the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, the violations identified as NERC Violation Tracking Identification Numbers WECC200901741 and

² Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval, and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards (Order No. 672), III FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204 (2006); Notice of New Docket Prefix "NP" for Notices of Penalty Filed by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Docket No. RM05-30-000 (February 7, 2008). See also 18 C.F.R. Part 39 (2010). Mandatory Reliability Standards for the Bulk-Power System, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,242 (2007) (Order No. 693), reh'g denied, 120 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2007) (Order No. 693-A). See 18 C.F.R § 39.7(c)(2).

116-390 Village Blvd. Princeton, NJ 08540 609.452.8060 | www.nerc.com

¹ For purposes of this document, each violation at issue is described as a "violation," regardless of its procedural posture and whether it was a possible, alleged or confirmed violation.

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS PUBLIC VERSIONNERC Notice of PenaltyPRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATIONUnidentified Registered EntityHAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS PUBLIC VERSIONApril 29, 2011Page 2

WECC200901399 are being filed in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure and the CMEP.

Statement of Findings Underlying the Violations

This NOP incorporates the findings and justifications set forth in the Settlement Agreement executed on November 2, 1020, by and between WECC and URE. The details of the findings and the basis for the penalty are set forth in the Disposition Documents. This NOP filing contains the basis for approval of the Settlement Agreement by the NERC Board of Trustees Compliance Committee (NERC BOTCC). In accordance with Section 39.7 of the Commission's regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 39.7, NERC provides the following summary table identifying each violation of a Reliability Standard resolved by the Settlement Agreement, as discussed in greater detail below.

NOC ID	NERC Violation ID	Reliability Std.	Req. (R)	VRF	Duration	Total Penalty (\$)
NOC-718	WECC200901741	CIP-002-1	1.2	Medium ³	7/1/08- 8/27/09	25.000
	WECC200901399	COM-002-2	2	Medium	2/10/09- 7/29/09	35,000

The text of the Reliability Standards at issue and further information on the subject violations are set forth in the Disposition Documents.

CIP-002-1 R1.2 - OVERVIEW

A violation of CIP-002-1 R1.2 was discovered by WECC during a Spot Check. WECC determined that URE failed to consider systems and facilities critical to system restoration, including blackstart generators and substations in the electrical path of transmission lines used for initial system restoration, in accordance with the subject Standards requirement.

COM-002-2 R2 - OVERVIEW

On April 3, 2009, URE self-reported a violation of COM-002-2 R2. WECC determined that URE failed to: (1) ensure that the recipient of a directive repeated the information back correctly; and (2) acknowledge the response as correct or repeat the original statement to resolve any misunderstandings.

³ When NERC filed Violation Risk Factors (VRF) it originally assigned CIP-002-1 R1 a Lower VRF. The Commission approved the VRF as filed; however, it directed NERC to submit modifications. NERC submitted the modified Medium VRF and on January 27, 2009, the Commission approved the modified Medium VRF. Therefore, the Lower VRF for CIP-002-1 R1 was in effect from June 18, 2007 until January 27, 2009 when the Medium VRF became effective.

Statement Describing the Assessed Penalty, Sanction or Enforcement Action Imposed⁴

Basis for Determination

Taking into consideration the Commission's direction in Order No. 693, the NERC Sanction Guidelines, the Commission's July 3, 2008, October 26, 2009 and August 27, 2010 Guidance Orders,⁵ the NERC BOTCC reviewed the Settlement Agreement and supporting documentation on April 11, 2011. The NERC BOTCC approved the Settlement Agreement, including WECC's assessment of a thirty five thousand dollar (\$35,000) financial penalty against URE and other actions to facilitate future compliance required under the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement. In approving the Settlement Agreement, the NERC BOTCC reviewed the applicable requirements of the Commission-approved Reliability Standards and the underlying facts and circumstances of the violations at issue.

In reaching this determination, the NERC BOTCC considered the following factors:

- 1. the CIP-002-1 R1.2 violation constituted URE's first occurrence of violation of the subject NERC Reliability Standard;
- 2. URE self-reported the COM-002-2 R2 violation;
- 3. WECC reported that URE was cooperative throughout the compliance enforcement process;
- 4. URE had a compliance program at the time of the violation which WECC considered a mitigating factor, as discussed in the Disposition Documents;
- 5. there was no evidence of any attempt to conceal a violation nor evidence of intent to do so;
- 6. WECC determined that the CIP-002-1 R2 violation posed a minimal risk and the COM-002-2 R1posed a moderate risk and that neither of the violations posed a serious or substantial risk to the reliability of the bulk power system (BPS), as discussed in the Disposition Documents; and
- 7. WECC reported that there were no other mitigating or aggravating factors or extenuating circumstances that would affect the assessed penalty.

For the foregoing reasons, the NERC BOTCC approved the Settlement Agreement and believes that the assessed penalty of thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000) is appropriate for the violations and circumstances at issue, and is consistent with NERC's goal to promote and ensure reliability of the BPS.

⁴ See 18 C.F.R. § 39.7(d)(4).

⁵ North American Electric Reliability Corporation, "Guidance Order on Reliability Notices of Penalty," 124 FERC ¶ 61,015 (2008); North American Electric Reliability Corporation, "Further Guidance Order on Reliability Notices of Penalty," 129 FERC ¶ 61,069 (2009); North American Electric Reliability Corporation, "Notice of No Further Review and Guidance Order," 132 FERC ¶ 61,182 (2010).

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 39.7(e), the penalty will be effective upon expiration of the 30 day period following the filing of this NOP with FERC, or, if FERC decides to review the penalty, upon final determination by FERC.

Attachments to be included as Part of this Notice of Penalty

The attachments to be included as part of this NOP are the following documents:

- a) Settlement Agreement by and between WECC and URE executed November 2, 2010, included as Attachment a;
- b) Disposition Document for Common Information, included as Attachment b:
 - i. Disposition Document for CIP-002-1 R1.2, included as Attachment b-1;
 - ii. Disposition Document for COM-002-2 R2, included as Attachment b-2;
- c) Record Documents for CIP-002-1 R1.2:
 - i. WECC's Regional Determination of Alleged Violation Summary, included as Attachment c;
 - ii. URE's Mitigation Plan for CIP-002-1 R1.2, designated as MIT-08-2978 and dated January 8, 2010, included as Attachment d;
 - iii. URE's Certification of Mitigation Plan Completion for CIP-002-1 R1.2, dated January 8, 2010,⁶ included as Attachment e;
 - iv. WECC's Verification of Mitigation Plan Completion for CIP-002-1 R1.2, dated July 12, 2010, included as Attachment f;
- d) Record Documents for COM-002-2 R2:
 - i. URE's Self-Report for COM-002-2 R2, dated April 3, 2009, included as Attachment g;
 - ii. URE's Mitigation Plan for COM-002-2 R2, designated as MIT-09-2061 and dated April 30, 2009, included as Attachment h;
 - iii. URE's Certification of Mitigation Plan Completion for COM-002-2 R2, dated July 29, 2009, included as Attachment i;
 - iv. WECC's Verification of Mitigation Plan Completion for COM-002-2 R2, dated November 10, 2009, included as Attachment j;

A Form of Notice Suitable for Publication⁷

A copy of a notice suitable for publication is included in Attachment k.

⁶ The Certification of Completion has a signature ate of January 8, 2009.

⁷ See 18 C.F.R. § 39.7(d)(6).

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS PUBLIC VERSIONNERC Notice of PenaltyPRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATIONUnidentified Registered EntityHAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS PUBLIC VERSIONApril 29, 2011Page 5

Notices and Communications

Notices and communications with respect to this filing may be addressed to the following:

Gerald W. Cauley	Rebecca J. Michael*
President and Chief Executive Officer	Associate General Counsel for Corporate and
David N. Cook*	Regulatory Matters
Sr. Vice President and General Counsel	Sonia C. Mendonça*
North American Electric Reliability Corporation	Attorney
116-390 Village Boulevard	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Princeton, NJ 08540-5721	1120 G Street, N.W.
(609) 452-8060	Suite 990
(609) 452-9550 – facsimile	Washington, DC 20005-3801
david.cook@nerc.net	(202) 393-3998
	(202) 393-3955 – facsimile
Mark Maher*	rebecca.michael@nerc.net
Chief Executive Officer	sonia.mendonca@nerc.net
Western Electricity Coordinating Council	
155 North 400 West, Suite 200	Christopher Luras*
Salt Lake City, UT 84103	Manager of Compliance Enforcement
(360) 713-9598	Western Electricity Coordinating Council
(801) 582-3918 – facsimile	155 North 400 West, Suite 200
Mark@wecc.biz	Salt Lake City, UT 84103
	(801) 883-6887
	(801) 883-6894 – facsimile
	CLuras@wecc.biz
Constance White*	
Vice President of Compliance	
Western Electricity Coordinating Council	*Persons to be included on the Commission's
155 North 400 West, Suite 200	service list are indicated with an asterisk. NERC
Salt Lake City, UT 84103	
(801) 883-6855	requests waiver of the Commission's rules and
	regulations to permit the inclusion of more than
(801) 883-6894 – facsimile CWhite@wecc.biz	two people on the service list.
C w fille @ wecc.blz	
Sandy Mooy*	
Senior Legal Counsel	
Western Electricity Coordinating Council	
155 North 400 West, Suite 200	
Salt Lake City, UT 84103	
(801) 819-7658	
(801) 883-6894 – facsimile	
SMooy@wecc.biz	

Conclusion

Accordingly, NERC respectfully requests that the Commission accept this Abbreviated NOP as compliant with its rules, regulations and orders.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald W. Cauley President and Chief Executive Officer David N. Cook Sr. Vice President and General Counsel North American Electric Reliability Corporation 116-390 Village Boulevard Princeton, NJ 08540-5721 (609) 452-8060 (609) 452-9550 – facsimile david.cook@nerc.net <u>/s/ Rebecca J. Michael</u> Rebecca J. Michael Associate General Counsel for Corporate and Regulatory Matters Sonia C. Mendonça Attorney North American Electric Reliability Corporation 1120 G Street, N.W. Suite 990 Washington, DC 20005-3801 (202) 393-3998 (202) 393-3955 – facsimile rebecca.michael@nerc.net sonia.mendonca@nerc.net

cc: Unidentified Registered Entity Western Electricity Coordinating Council

Attachments



Attachment b

Disposition Document for Common Information

DISPOSITION OF VIOLATION¹ INFORMATION COMMON TO INSTANT VIOLATIONS Dated April 11, 2011

REGISTERED ENTITY	NERC RI	EGISTRY	' ID		NO	C#
Unidentified Registered Entity	NCRXX	XXX			NOC	718
(URE)						
REGIONAL ENTITY						
Western Electricity Coordinating (Council (WI	ECC)				
IS THERE A SETTLEMENT AGRE	EEMENT	YES	\square	NO		
WITH RESPECT TO THE VIOLAT	ION(S), RE	GISTERI	ED EN	ΓΙΤΥ		
NEITHER ADMITS NOR D	ENIES IT (S	ETTLEN	/IENT (ONLY)	YES	
ADMITS TO IT					YES	\boxtimes
(Stipulates to the facts)						_
DOES NOT CONTEST IT (I	NCLUDINC	5 WITHI	N 30 D.	AYS)	YES	

WITH RESPECT TO THE ASSESSED PENALTY OR SANCTION, REGISTERED ENTITY

ACCEPTS IT/ DOES NOT CONTEST IT

YES 🖂

I. <u>PENALTY INFORMATION</u>

TOTAL ASSESSED PENALTY OR SANCTION OF **\$35,000** FOR **TWO** VIOLATIONS OF RELIABILITY STANDARDS.

(1) REGISTERED ENTITY'S COMPLIANCE HISTORY

PREVIOUSLY FILED VIOLATIONS OF ANY OF THE INSTANT RELIABILITY STANDARD(S) OR REQUIREMENT(S) THEREUNDER YES NO

LIST VIOLATIONS AND STATUS

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

¹ For purposes of this document and attachments hereto, each violation at issue is described as a "violation," regardless of its procedural posture and whether it was a possible, alleged or confirmed violation.

PREVIOUSLY FILED VIOLATIONS OF OTHER RELIABILITY STANDARD(S) OR REQUIREMENTS THEREUNDER YES NO

T IST	VIOI	ATIONS		ста	TUS
LIST	VIUL	ATIONS	AND	SIA	103

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

(2) THE DEGREE AND QUALITY OF COOPERATION BY THE REGISTERED ENTITY (IF THE RESPONSE TO FULL COOPERATION IS "NO," THE ABBREVIATED NOP FORM MAY NOT BE USED.)

FULL COOPERATIONYESNOIF NO, EXPLAIN

(3) THE PRESENCE AND QUALITY OF THE REGISTERED ENTITY'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

IS THERE A DOCUMENTED COMPLIANCE PROGRAM YES NO UNDETERMINED EXPLAIN

WECC determined that URE has an effective compliance program and considered URE's ICP as a mitigating factor.

EXPLAIN SENIOR MANAGEMENT'S ROLE AND INVOLVEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE REGISTERED ENTITY'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM, INCLUDING WHETHER SENIOR MANAGEMENT TAKES ACTIONS THAT SUPPORT THE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM, SUCH AS TRAINING, COMPLIANCE AS A FACTOR IN EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS, OR OTHERWISE.

(4) ANY ATTEMPT BY THE REGISTERED ENTITY TO CONCEAL THE VIOLATION(S) OR INFORMATION NEEDED TO REVIEW, EVALUATE OR INVESTIGATE THE VIOLATION.

YES NO IF YES, EXPLAIN

(5) ANY EVIDENCE THE VIOLATION(S) WERE INTENTIONAL (IF THE RESPONSE IS "YES," THE ABBREVIATED NOP FORM MAY NOT BE USED.)

NO YES \mathbb{N} IF YES, EXPLAIN

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS PUBLIC VERSION Attachment b

(6) ANY OTHER MITIGATING FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

YES] NO	\boxtimes
IF YES, E	EXPLAIN	

(7) ANY OTHER AGGRAVATING FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

YES	NO	\boxtimes
IF YES,	EXPLAIN	

(8) ANY OTHER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

YES] NO	\boxtimes
IF YES, E	EXPLAIN	

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

NOTICE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION AND PROPOSED PENALTY OR SANCTION ISSUED DATE: 11/18/09 OR N/A

SETTLEMENT REQUEST DATE DATE: 12/18/09 OR N/A

NOTICE OF CONFIRMED VIOLATION ISSUED DATE: OR N/A \boxtimes

SUPPLEMENTAL RECORD INFORMATION DATE(S) OR N/A

REGISTERED ENTITY RESPONSE CONTESTED FINDINGS PENALTY BOTH DID NOT CONTEST

HEARING REQUESTED YES NO DATE OUTCOME APPEAL REQUESTED



Disposition Document for CIP-002-1 R1.2

DISPOSITION OF VIOLATION Dated April 11, 2011

NERC TRACKINGREGIONAL ENTITY TRACKINGNO.NO.WECC200901741URE_WECC20091920

I. <u>VIOLATION INFORMATION</u>

RELIABILITY	REQUIREMENT(S)	SUB-	VRF(S)	VSL(S)
STANDARD		REQUIREMENT(S)		
CIP-002-1	1	1.2	Medium ¹	N/A^2

PURPOSE OF THE RELIABILITY STANDARD AND TEXT OF RELIABILITY STANDARD AND REQUIREMENT(S)/SUB-REQUIREMENT(S)

The purpose statement of CIP-002-1 provides in pertinent part: "...Standard CIP-002 requires the identification and documentation of the Critical Cyber Assets associated with the Critical Assets that support the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System. These Critical Assets are to be identified through the application of a risk-based assessment."

CIP-002-1 R1 provides:

R1. Critical Asset Identification Method — The Responsible Entity shall identify and document a risk-based assessment methodology to use to identify its Critical Assets.

R1.1. The Responsible Entity shall maintain documentation describing its risk-based assessment methodology that includes procedures and evaluation criteria.

R1.2. The risk-based assessment shall consider the following assets:

R1.2.1. Control centers and backup control centers performing the functions of the entities listed in the Applicability section of this standard.

R1.2.2. Transmission substations that support the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System.

¹ When NERC filed Violation Risk Factors (VRF) it originally assigned CIP-002-1 R1 a Lower VRF. The Commission approved the VRF as filed; however, it directed NERC to submit modifications. NERC submitted the modified Medium VRF and on January 27, 2009, the Commission approved the modified Medium VRF. Therefore, the Lower VRF for CIP-002-1 R1 was in effect from June 18, 2007 until January 27, 2009 when the Medium VRF became effective.

² At the time of the violation, no VSLs were in effect for CIP-002-1. On June 30, 2009, NERC submitted VSLs for the CIP-002-1 through CIP-009-1 Reliability Standards. On March 18, 2010, the Commission approved the VSLs as filed, but directed NERC to submit modifications.

R1.2.3. Generation resources that support the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System.

R1.2.4. Systems and facilities critical to system restoration, including blackstart generators and substations in the electrical path of transmission lines used for initial system restoration.

R1.2.5. Systems and facilities critical to automatic load shedding under a common control system capable of shedding 300 MW or more.

R1.2.6. Special Protection Systems that support the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System.

R1.2.7. Any additional assets that support the reliable operation of the Bulk Electric System that the Responsible Entity deems appropriate to include in its assessment.

VIOLATION DESCRIPTION

WECC discovered, during a Spot Check, a violation of CIP-002-1 R1.2. The versions of URE's risk-based assessment methodology (Methodology) prior to August 27, 2009 failed to consider systems and facilities critical to system restoration, as required by the subject Standards requirement.

It was determined during the Spot Check that URE's Critical Assets list and criteria for evaluation contains URE's Methodology. The Spot Check team reviewed the Critical Assets list and criteria for evaluation, along with other evidence. The Spot Check Team concluded that, although URE identified its one plant as a blackstart facility, it did not use the procedures and criteria contained in its Methodology for the evaluation of assets used in the electrical path of the transmission lines used for initial system restoration from the plant. On August 27, 2009, URE modified its Methodology to include all procedures and evaluation criteria used for the identification of critical assets for all assets classes identified in the Standard in its Critical Assets list and criteria for evaluation.

WECC reviewed the findings of the Spot Check team and confirmed that URE's Methodology, prior to August 27, 2009, failed to consider assets critical to system restoration, including blackstart generators and substations in the electrical path of transmission lines used for initial system restoration. WECC Enforcement determined URE's failure to consider systems and facilities critical to system restoration was a violation of CIP-002-1 R1.2.4.

RELIABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT- POTENTIAL AND ACTUAL

WECC determined that the violation posed a minimal risk and did not pose a serious or substantial risk to the reliability of the bulk power system (BPS) because (1) URE had a Methodology applicable to all other critical assets described in the subject Standards requirement; and (2) the plant is a relatively small blackstart

facility. Although URE did not identify the plant as a Critical Asset, the plant represents approximately one-third of URE's total generating capability. Further, the plant represents a fraction of the generation capacity available to the host Balancing Authority.

II. **DISCOVERY INFORMATION**

METHOD OF DISCOVERY

SELF-REPORT SELF-CERTIFICATION COMPLIANCE AUDIT COMPLIANCE VIOLATION INVESTIGATION SPOT CHECK COMPLAINT PERIODIC DATA SUBMITTAL EXCEPTION REPORTING

DURATION DATE(S) 7/1/08 (when the Standard became mandatory and enforceable) through 8/27/09 (Mitigation Plan completion)

DATE DISCOVERED BY OR REPORTED TO REGIONAL ENTITY Spot Check

IS THE VIOLATION STILL OCCURRING YES \square NO \boxtimes IF YES, EXPLAIN

REMEDIAL ACTION DIRECTIVE ISSUEDYESNOPRE TO POST JUNE 18, 2007 VIOLATIONYESNO

III. MITIGATION INFORMATION

FOR FINAL ACCEPTED MITIGATION PLAN:	
MITIGATION PLAN NO.	MIT-08-2978
DATE SUBMITTED TO REGIONAL ENTITY	1/8/10
DATE ACCEPTED BY REGIONAL ENTITY	7/8/10
DATE APPROVED BY NERC	8/8/10
DATE PROVIDED TO FERC	$11/17/10^3$

IDENTIFY AND EXPLAIN ALL PRIOR VERSIONS THAT WERE ACCEPTED OR REJECTED, IF APPLICABLE

³ Due to an administrative oversight, NERC did not timely submit the subject Mitigation Plan to FERC.

MITIGATION PLAN COMPLETED YES NO

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATESubmitted as completeEXTENSIONS GRANTEDN/AACTUAL COMPLETION DATE8/27/09

DATE OF CERTIFICATION LETTER	1/8/10 ⁴
CERTIFIED COMPLETE BY REGISTERED ENTITY AS OF	8/27/09

DATE OF VERIFICATION LETTER7/12/10VERIFIED COMPLETE BY REGIONAL ENTITY AS OF8/27/09

ACTIONS TAKEN TO MITIGATE THE ISSUE AND PREVENT RECURRENCE

URE's Critical Assets list and criteria for evaluation, considers potential critical assets used in the electrical path of the transmission lines used for initial system restoration from the plant and therefore addresses the requirements of the subject Standard. Accordingly, URE did not take any action to mitigate the instant violation subsequent to discovery because WECC found its Methodology to be acceptable at the time of the Spot Check.

LIST OF EVIDENCE REVIEWED BY REGIONAL ENTITY TO EVALUATE COMPLETION OF MITIGATION PLAN OR MILESTONES (FOR CASES IN WHICH MITIGATION IS NOT YET COMPLETED, LIST EVIDENCE REVIEWED FOR COMPLETED MILESTONES)

1. URE's Critical Assets list and criteria for evaluation

EXHIBITS:

SOURCE DOCUMENT WECC's Regional Determination of Alleged Violation Summary

MITIGATION PLAN

URE's Mitigation Plan for CIP-002-1 R1.2, designated as MIT-08-2978 and dated January 8, 2010

CERTIFICATION BY REGISTERED ENTITY URE's Certification of Mitigation Plan Completion, dated January 8, 2010

VERIFICATION BY REGIONAL ENTITY WECC's Verification of Mitigation Plan Completion, dated July 12, 2010

⁴ The Certification of Completion document was signed on January 8, 2009.



Disposition Document for COM-002-2 R2

DISPOSITION OF VIOLATION Dated April 11, 2011

NERC TRACKINGREGIONAL ENTITY TRACKINGNO.NO.WECC200901399URE_WECC20091568

I. <u>VIOLATION INFORMATION</u>

RELIABILITY	REQUIREMENT(S)	SUB-	VRF(S)	VSL(S)
STANDARD		REQUIREMENT(S)		
COM-002-2	2		Medium	High

PURPOSE OF THE RELIABILITY STANDARD AND TEXT OF RELIABILITY STANDARD AND REQUIREMENT(S)/SUB-REQUIREMENT(S)

The purpose statement of COM-002-2 provides: "To ensure Balancing Authorities, Transmission Operators, and Generator Operators have adequate communications and that these communications capabilities are staffed and available for addressing a real-time emergency condition. To ensure communications by operating personnel are effective."

COM-002-2 R2 provides:

Each Reliability Coordinator, Transmission Operator, and Balancing Authority shall issue directives in a clear, concise, and definitive manner; shall ensure the recipient of the directive repeats the information back correctly; and shall acknowledge the response as correct or repeat the original statement to resolve any misunderstandings.

VIOLATION DESCRIPTION

On April 3, 2009, URE self-reported a violation of COM-002-2 R2 after discovering that one of its operators, on two occasions, failed to: (1) ensure that the recipient of a directive repeated the information back correctly; and (2) acknowledge the response as correct or repeat the original statement to resolve any misunderstandings.

After reviewing communications recordings provided by URE as evidence of prior violation mitigation, WECC notified URE that the evidence may have indicated the existence of another violation. In response, URE conducted an internal review and discovered recordings from February 10, 2009 and February 20, 2009 on which the URE operator failed to communicate effectively in accordance with the subject Standards requirement.

WECC reviewed the self-report and the findings of its subject matter expert and determined that the URE operator's failure to ensure that the Generator Operator

correctly received and understood the directive constituted a violation of the subject Standard.

RELIABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT- POTENTIAL AND ACTUAL

WECC determined that the violation posed a moderate risk to the bulk power system (BPS) because an improper response to the directive, resulting from a misunderstanding, could have led to a voltage deviation requiring further corrective action by URE Operators and adjoining BAs and TOPs to stabilize the system.

II. **DISCOVERY INFORMATION**

METHOD OF DISCOVERY

SELF-REPORT SELF-CERTIFICATION COMPLIANCE AUDIT COMPLIANCE VIOLATION INVESTIGATION SPOT CHECK COMPLAINT PERIODIC DATA SUBMITTAL EXCEPTION REPORTING

\ge	

DURATION DATE(S) 2/10/09 (when URE's Power Control Center Operator failed to ensure the recipient of a directive repeated the information correctly) through 7/29/09 (Mitigation Plan completion)

DATE DISCOVERED BY OR REPORTED TO REGIONAL ENTITY 4/3/09

IS THE VIOLATION STILL OCCURRING	YES	NO	\boxtimes
IF YES, EXPLAIN			

REMEDIAL ACTION DIRECTIVE ISSUED YES NO PRE TO POST JUNE 18, 2007 VIOLATION YES NO III. MITIGATION INFORMATION

FOR FINAL ACCEPTED MITIGATION PLAN:	
MITIGATION PLAN NO.	MIT-09-2061
DATE SUBMITTED TO REGIONAL ENTITY	4/30/09
DATE ACCEPTED BY REGIONAL ENTITY	10/19/09
DATE APPROVED BY NERC	10/27/09
DATE PROVIDED TO FERC	10/27/09

IDENTIFY AND EXPLAIN ALL PRIOR VERSIONS THAT WERE ACCEPTED OR REJECTED, IF APPLICABLE

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS PUBLIC VERSION Attachment b-2

MITIGATION PLAN COMPLETED YES 🛛 NO 🗌

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE7/30/09EXTENSIONS GRANTEDN/AACTUAL COMPLETION DATE7/29/09

DATE OF CERTIFICATION LETTER	7/29/09
CERTIFIED COMPLETE BY REGISTERED ENTITY AS OF	7/29/09

DATE OF VERIFICATION LETTER	11/10/09
VERIFIED COMPLETE BY REGIONAL ENTITY AS OF	7/29/09

ACTIONS TAKEN TO MITIGATE THE ISSUE AND PREVENT RECURRENCE

- 1. URE will provide additional training on COM-002-2 Requirement R2 for all of its Control Center operators;
- 2. URE's Control Center operators also received additional refresher training on COM-002-2 R2 during the discussions held every training week;
- **3. URE provided training on COM-002-2 R2 for all of its Generator** Operators;
- 4. Both occurrences were committed by the same operator, and URE has disciplined the employee in accordance with URE's internal compliance program;
- 5. URE's Control Center operators and Generator Operators were provided training on the proper phone communication protocol; and
- 6. URE's Control Center operators and Generator Operators received refresher training on compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. The training will be emphasizing the importance of compliance with the Standards and the penalties associated with violating any requirements of those standards.

LIST OF EVIDENCE REVIEWED BY REGIONAL ENTITY TO EVALUATE COMPLETION OF MITIGATION PLAN OR MILESTONES (FOR CASES IN WHICH MITIGATION IS NOT YET COMPLETED, LIST EVIDENCE REVIEWED FOR COMPLETED MILESTONES)

URE provided:

- 1. training agendas for URE Control Center operator and Generator Operator training sessions; and
- 2. training session rosters.

EXHIBITS:

SOURCE DOCUMENT URE's Self-Report dated April 3, 2009

MITIGATION PLAN URE's Mitigation Plan for COM-002-2 R2, designated as MIT-09-2061 and dated April 30, 2009

CERTIFICATION BY REGISTERED ENTITY URE's Certification of Mitigation Plan Completion, dated July 29, 2009

VERIFICATION BY REGIONAL ENTITY WECC's Verification of Mitigation Plan Completion, dated November 10, 2009