

Fast Facts

August 2013

Overview

NERC is an international, independent, not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to ensure the reliability of the Bulk-Power System in North America.

Bulk-Power System Oversight

NERC oversees reliability for a Bulk-Power System that:

- Provides electricity to 334 million people;
- Has a total electricity demand of 830 gigawatts (830,000 megawatts);
- Has 211,000 miles, or 340,000 kilometers of high-voltage transmission lines (230,000 volts and greater); and
- Represents more than US\$1 trillion worth of assets.

Brief History

NERC was founded in 1968 by the electric utility industry to develop and promote rules and protocols for the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System of North America.

Principal Activities

- Works with industry to develop Reliability Standards
- Monitors and enforces compliance with those Reliability Standards and assesses monetary and non-monetary penalties for noncompliance
- Assesses future Bulk-Power System reliability via annual summer, winter and 10-year reliability assessments
- Analyzes Bulk-Power System events for lessons learned
- Promotes a culture of reliability excellence through training, education and sharing of best practices
- Monitors and reports on the status of the Bulk-Power System through daily reports regarding situation awareness
- Coordinates physical security and cybersecurity needs
- Identifies reliability trends and potential reliability issues
- Helps industry train and educate system operators
- Certifies system operators

Locations

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