1. On December 20, 2013, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) filed a motion requesting that the Commission defer action, until January 31, 2015, to allow NERC time to consider the reliability concerns raised by the Commission in the November 21, 2013, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) in connection with the revisions to the Transmission Operations (TOP) and Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination (IRO) Reliability Standards in the above-referenced dockets.¹ NERC states that, rather than respond to the NOPR concerns, it would be more efficient to examine the technical issues in the standards and develop any necessary revisions to the TOP and IRO standards for Commission approval. NERC states that deferral would also afford time to review the proposed TOP and IRO Standards through the NERC standards development process, and would help the industry, NERC, and the Commission work toward a common set of solutions. Further, NERC commits to providing the Commission with quarterly reports regarding the status of revisions. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the ISO/RTO Council filed comments in support of NERC’s motion.

2. The Commission agrees with NERC that deferring action on the NOPR is appropriate to allow time for review of the proposed TOP and IRO Standards through the NERC standards development process and would be an efficient means of moving forward. Therefore, the Commission grants NERC’s motion to defer action until January 31, 2015, including deferral of the comment due date.

The Commission orders:

The Commission hereby grants NERC’s motion to defer action on the November 21, 2013 NOPR until January 31, 2015, including deferral of the comment due date.

By the Commission.

(SEAL)

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.