

“Interconnection” means a geographic area in which the operation of Bulk Power System components is synchronized such that the failure of one or more of such components may adversely affect the ability of the operators of other components within the system to maintain Reliable Operation of the Facilities within their control.++ When capitalized, any one of the four major electric system networks in North America: Eastern, Western, ERCOT and Quebec.**

“Interconnection Reliability Operating Limit” means a System Operating Limit that, if violated, could lead to instability, uncontrolled separation, or Cascading outages that adversely impact the reliability of the Bulk Electric System.**

“Intermediate System” means a Cyber Asset or collection of Cyber Assets performing access control to restrict Interactive Remote Access to only authorized users. The Intermediate System must not be located inside the Electronic Security Perimeter.**

“Internal Control Evaluation” or “ICE” means a review by the Compliance Enforcement Authority of a Registered Entity’s internal controls. The ICE may further refine the compliance oversight plan, including the scope of an audit, the type and application of compliance monitoring tools, the depth and breadth of a particular area of review.

“Interpretation” means an addendum to a Reliability Standard, developed in accordance with the NERC *Standard Processes Manual* and approved by the Applicable Governmental Authority(ies), that provides additional clarity about one or more Requirements in the Reliability Standard.

“ISO/RTO” means an independent transmission system operator or regional transmission organization approved by the FERC or the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

“Joint Registration Organization” means two or more entities (the parties) agree in writing upon a division of compliance responsibility where an entity ~~that~~ registers in the Compliance Registry ~~to perform reliability functions~~for one or more function type(s) for itself and on behalf of one or more ~~of its members or related entities~~other parties to such agreement for function type(s) for which such ~~members or related entities~~parties would otherwise be required to register.

“Lead Entity” means ~~the entity that submits~~(1) within the meaning of Appendices 5A and 5B, the entity identified in a Joint Registration Organization or Coordinated Functional Registration agreement as the primary Point of Contact that administers that agreement with NERC and the applicable Regional Entity(ies), and (2) within the meaning of Appendix 5C, the entity that submits the Exception Request information that is common to a group of Submitting Entities that are submitting Exception Requests jointly.

“Lead Mediator” means a member of a mediation team formed pursuant to Appendix 4E who is selected by the members to coordinate the mediation process and serve as the mediation team’s primary contact with the Parties.

“Load” means an end-use device or customer that receives power from the electric system.**

“Load-Serving Entity” means an entity that secures energy and Transmission Service (and related Interconnected Operations Services) to serve the electrical demand and energy requirements of its end-use customers.**