

# NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Planning Committee Charter

to ensure  
the reliability of the  
bulk power system

June 2011

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## **Section 1. Purpose**

The Planning Committee proactively supports the NERC enterprise mission, vision, and the NERC program areas by carrying out a broad array of functions and responsibilities focused on the reliable planning and assessment of interconnected bulk power systems.

## **Section 2. General Overview and Functions**

1. General forum - Provides a general forum for aggregating ideas and interests regarding the reliable planning and assessment of the interconnected bulk power systems in North America.
2. Advice and recommendations - Provides NERC (stakeholders, Board of Trustees, and staff) with advice, recommendations, and the collective and diverse opinions on matters related to bulk power system planning, reliability, and adequacy to help the industry arrive at informed decisions. Issue reliability guidelines in accordance with the process described in Appendix 4.
3. Support to the priorities of the NERC ERO enterprise – Providing a technical foundation for reliability issues, including:
  - **Reliability Assessments** – Review reliability assessments, assure technical accuracy and completeness of results, and endorse approval of assessments to the NERC’s Board of Trustees.
  - **Emerging Issues and Reliability Concerns** – Identify emerging issues within the electric industry, address issues in reliability assessments, and address other issues as assigned by NERC’s Board of Trustees.
  - **Technical Planning Analyses** – Develop technical analyses, model validation, and key reliability areas, resulting in technically accurate and comprehensive reports addressing these areas (i.e., FDVIR, variable generation, smart grid, etc.). Provide recommendations that facilitate addressing the reliability risks identified. Provide oversight, guidance, and direction to address key planning related issues.
  - **Standards Input** – Provide technical expertise and feedback to Standard Authorization Requests (SARs) that have planning-related impacts, provide foundational technical efforts that support the key reliability planning related standards development, coordinate effectively with the Standards Committee to maintain alignment on priorities of related PC efforts, and provide reliability risk information for prioritization of SARs and new Reliability Standards.
  - **Metrics** – Provide direction, technical oversight, and feedback on the NERC Adequate Level of Reliability (ALR) metrics.

- **Event Analysis** – Support disturbance reporting and event analysis activities, leading to an emphasis on providing sound lessons learned and insights to the industry to enhance reliability.
- **NERC Alerts** – Support the review and deployment of requests for industry actions and informational responses.
- **Guidelines and Technical Reports** – Develop guidelines, white papers, technical reports and reference documents to address emerging issues and industry concerns related to system planning.
- **Compliance Input** – Provide technical expertise and feedback on the potential impact of emerging issues on the development of NERC’s annual compliance program.

The PC will develop a Strategic Plan and an associated Work Plan to address the functions described above. As changes emerge, the PC will revisit its Strategic Plan to ensure alignment is maintained with the NERC Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) enterprise. As changes to the PC Strategic Plan become necessary, the PC will advise the BOT of changes in strategies and priorities being considered.

### **Section 3. Membership**

1. **Goals.** The Planning Committees provides for balanced decision making by bringing together a wide diversity of opinions from industry experts with outstanding technical knowledge and experience in the area of interconnected systems planning reliability and reliability assessment.
2. **Expectations.** Planning Committee voting members are expected to:
  - a. Bring the applicable subject matter expertise to the Planning Committee
  - b. Be knowledgeable about planning reliability and reliability assessment
  - c. Attend and participate in all Planning Committee meetings
  - d. Express their opinions as well as the opinions of the sector they represent at committee meetings.
  - e. Discuss and debate interests rather than positions
  - f. Complete committee assignments
  - g. Inform the secretary of any changes in their status that may affect their eligibility for committee membership. Failure to do so in a timely manner may result in the member’s dismissal by the chair.
3. **Representation.** See Appendix 1, “Committee Members.”
  - a. Committee members may, but need not be, NERC members. A non-voting representative must meet the requirements defined in Appendix 1. Voting committee members (except for sector 11 that appoints it members) may hold a position in any

sector in which they would have been eligible for NERC membership, even if they are a NERC member in another sector. Questions regarding eligibility for committee membership will be referred to the NERC general counsel for final determination of status.

- b. To ensure adequate Canadian representation, the membership to the committee may be increased so that the number of Canadian voting members is equal to the percentage of the net energy for load (NEL) of Canada to the total NEL of the United States and Canada, times the total number of voting members on the committee, rounded to the next whole number.

4. **Selection.** Except for sector 11, NERC sector members will annually elect voting committee members to committee sectors corresponding to their NERC sector under an election process that is open, inclusive, and fair. The selection process will be completed in time for the secretary to send the committee membership list to the board for its approval at the board's August meeting so that new committee members may be seated at the September meeting.

- a. Un-nominated voting member positions will remain vacant until the next annual or special election. If a vacancy in an elected sector is created by a resignation or other cause, a special election will be held unless it would coincide with the annual election process. Special elections shall follow the same procedure as the annual election.
- b. Members may not represent more than one committee sector.
- c. A particular organization, including its affiliates, may not have more than one member on the committee.
- d. If additional Canadian members are added, no more than one additional Canadian voting member shall be selected from a sector unless this limitation precludes the addition of the number of additional Canadian voting representatives required by Section 3.3.b. In this case, no more than two additional Canadian voting members may be selected from the same sector.
- e. The secretary will monitor the committee selection process to ensure that membership specifications are met.
- f. After the secretary announces the election results, the newly elected members will serve on the committee pending approval by the board. The secretary will submit the newly elected members' names to the board for approval at the board's next regular meeting.

5. **Terms.** Members' terms are staggered, with one-half of the members' terms expiring each year. Except for the cases described below, a member's term is two years. Members may be re-elected for subsequent terms. Shorter terms may be required for several reasons: (i) If two members are simultaneously selected to a sector that did not have any existing members, in order to stagger their terms, one member will be assigned a one-year term and the second member will be assigned a two-year term using a fair and unbiased method. (ii) If a member replaces a departed member between elections, the new member will assume the remaining term of the departed member. (iii) If a member is selected to fill a vacant member position between elections, his/her term will end when the term for that vacant position ends.

**6. Resignations, Vacancies, and Nonparticipation.**

- a. Members who resign will be replaced for the time remaining in the member's term. Members will be replaced pursuant to Section 3.4, officers will be replaced pursuant to Appendix 3, and executive committee members will be replaced pursuant to Section 7.
- b. Newly elected or appointed members will serve on the committee pending approval by the board. The secretary will submit new members' names to the board for approval at the board's next regular meeting.
- c. The committee chair will contact any member who has missed two consecutive meetings (even if the member has sent a proxy) to 1) seek a commitment to actively participate or 2) ask the member to resign from the committee.
- d. The chair may remove any member who has missed two consecutive meetings (even with a proxy).

**7. Proxies.** A member of the committee may give a proxy only to a person who:

- e. Meets the member's eligibility requirements (see Section 3.3a) and is not affiliated with the same organization as another committee member (see Section 3.4c), or
- f. Is not another committee member, unless that committee member would represent the proxy's sector instead of his/her own sector at the meeting.

To permit time to determine a proxy's eligibility, proxies must be submitted to the secretary in writing at least one week prior to the meeting (electronic transmittal is acceptable). Any proxy submitted after that time will be accepted at the chairman's discretion, provided that the chairman believes the proxy meets the eligibility requirements.

**Section 4. Meetings.**

See Appendix 2, "Meeting Procedures." Unless stated otherwise, the Planning Committee will follow Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

- 1. **Quorum.** The quorum necessary for the transaction of business (i.e., formal actions) at meetings of the committee is two-thirds of the voting members currently on the committee roster (i.e., does not count vacancies). The committee may engage in discussions without a quorum present.
- 2. **Voting.** Actions by members of the committee shall be approved upon receipt of the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting members of the committee present and voting, in person or by proxy, at any meeting at which a quorum is present. The chair and vice chair may vote. Additional voting guidelines are in Appendix 2.
- 3. **Antitrust Guidelines.** All persons attending or otherwise participating in the committee meeting shall act in accordance with NERC's Antitrust Compliance Guidelines at all times during the meeting. A copy of the NERC antitrust statement shall be included with each meeting agenda.

4. **Open Meetings.** NERC committee meetings shall be open to the public, except as noted below under Confidential Sessions. Although meetings are open, only voting members may offer and act on motions.

5. **Confidential Sessions.** The chair of a committee may limit attendance at a meeting or portion of a meeting, based on confidentiality of the information to be disclosed at the meeting. Such limitations should be applied sparingly and on a nondiscriminatory basis as needed to protect information that is sensitive to one or more parties. A preference, where possible, is to avoid the disclosure of sensitive or confidential information so that meetings may remain open at all times. Confidentiality agreements may also be applied as necessary to protect sensitive information.

## **Section 5. Officers.**

See Appendix 3, “Officer Selection Process”

1. **Selection.** At its first June meeting and every two years thereafter, the committee shall select a chair and vice chair from among its voting members by majority vote of the members of the committee to serve as chair and vice chair of the committee from the end of that June meeting until the end of the June meeting two years later.

2. **Terms.** The chair and vice chair serve two-year terms.

3. **Representation.**

a. The newly selected chair and vice chair shall not be from of the same sector.

b. The chair and vice chair, upon assuming such positions, shall cease to act as members of the sectors that elected them as members to the committee and shall thereafter be responsible for acting in the best interests of the members as a whole.

4. **Board approval.** Pending approval by the board, the newly elected officers will assume their duties. The secretary will submit the names of the elected officers to the chair of the board for approval at the board’s next regular meeting.

## **Section 6. Subcommittees**

The Planning Committee may appoint technical subcommittees, task forces, and working groups as needed. The Planning Committee is responsible for directing the work of these subgroups and for their work products.

## **Section 7. Executive Committee**

1. **Authorization.** The executive committee is authorized to act between regular meetings of the Planning Committee. However, the executive committee may not reverse the Planning Committee’s decisions.

2. **Membership.** The executive committee is comprised of the chair, the vice chair, and four at-large members. The committee will nominate and elect the four at-large members of the executive committee at its September meeting. No two members may be from the same sector.

3. **Election Process.**
  - a. The chair opens the floor for nominations.
  - b. If the committee members nominated four or fewer candidates, then those candidates are automatically elected.
  - c. If the committee members nominate more than four candidates, then the secretary will distribute paper ballots for the members to list their top four candidates.
  - d. The four candidates who receive the most votes will be elected, provided that no two candidates may be from the same sector.
4. **Terms.** The executive committee will be replaced every two years, with the chair and vice chair replaced at a June meeting and the at-large members replaced at a September meeting.

## Appendix 1 – Committee Members

Name	Definition	Members
<b>Voting Members</b>		
1. Investor-owned utility	This sector includes any investor-owned entity with substantial business interest in ownership and/or operation in any of the asset categories of generation, transmission, or distribution. This sector also includes organizations that represent the interests of such entities.	2
2. State/municipal utility	This sector includes any entity owned by or subject to the governmental authority of a state or municipality, that is engaged in the generation, delivery, and/or sale of electric power to end-use customers primarily within the political boundaries of the state or municipality; and any entity, whose members are municipalities, formed under state law for the purpose of generating, transmitting, or purchasing electricity for sale at wholesale to their members. This sector also includes organizations that represent the interests of such entities.	2
3. Cooperative utility	This sector includes any non-governmental entity that is incorporated under the laws of the state in which it operates, is owned by and provides electric service to end-use customers at cost, and is governed by a board of directors that is elected by the membership of the entity; and any non-governmental entity owned by and which provides generation and/or transmission service to such entities. This sector also includes organizations that represent the interests of such entities.	2
4. Federal or provincial utility/Federal Power Marketing Administration	This sector includes any U.S. federal, Canadian provincial, or Mexican entity that owns and/or operates electric facilities in any of the asset categories of generation, transmission, or distribution; or that functions as a power marketer or power marketing administrator. This sector also includes organizations that represent the interests of such entities. One member will be a U.S. federal entity and one will be a Canadian provincial entity.	2
5. Transmission dependent utility	This sector includes any entity with a regulatory, contractual, or other legal obligation to serve wholesale aggregators or customers or end-use customers and that depends primarily on the transmission systems of third parties to provide this service. This sector also includes organizations that represent the interests of such entities.	2
6. Merchant electricity generator	This sector includes any entity that owns or operates an electricity generating facility that is not included in an investor-owned utility's rate base and that does not otherwise fall within any of sectors (i) through (v). This sector includes but is not limited to cogenerators, small power producers, and all other non-utility electricity producers such as exempt wholesale generators who sell electricity at wholesale. This sector also includes organizations that represent the interests of such entities.	2
7. Electricity marketer	This sector includes any entity that is engaged in the activity of buying and selling of wholesale electric power in North America on a physical or financial basis. This sector also includes organizations that represent the interests of such entities.	2

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Name	Definition	Members																									
<b>Voting Members</b>																											
8. Large end-use electricity customer	This sector includes any entity in North America with at least one service delivery taken at 50 kV or higher (radial supply or facilities dedicated to serve customers) that is not purchased for resale; and any single end-use customer with an average aggregated service load (not purchased for resale) of at least 50,000 MWh annually, excluding cogeneration or other back feed to the serving utility. This sector also includes organizations that represent the interests of such entities.	2																									
9. Small end-use electricity customer	This sector includes any person or entity within North America that takes service below 50 kV; and any single end-use customer with an average aggregated service load (not purchased for resale) of less than 50,000 MWh annually, excluding cogeneration or other back feed to the serving utility. This sector also includes organizations (including state consumer advocates) that represent the interests of such entities.	2																									
10. Independent system operator/regional transmission organization	This sector includes any entity authorized by the Commission to function as an independent transmission system operator, a regional transmission organization, or a similar organization; comparable entities in Canada and Mexico; and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas or its successor. This sector also includes organizations that represent the interests of such entities.	2																									
11. Regional reliability organization	This sector includes any regional reliability organization as defined in Article I, Section 1, of the Bylaws of the corporation. In aggregate, this sector will have voting strength equivalent to two members. The voting weight of each regional member's vote will be set such that the sum of the weight of all available regional reliability organizations members' votes is two votes.	2																									
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="604 1056 846 1087"><u>RRO</u></th> <th data-bbox="846 1056 1094 1087"><u>Number of Members</u></th> <th data-bbox="1094 1056 1336 1087"><u>Proportional Voting</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1087 846 1119">FRCC</td> <td data-bbox="846 1087 1094 1119">1</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1087 1336 1119">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1119 846 1150">RFC</td> <td data-bbox="846 1119 1094 1150">1</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1119 1336 1150">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1150 846 1182">ERCOT</td> <td data-bbox="846 1150 1094 1182">1</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1150 1336 1182">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1182 846 1213">MRO</td> <td data-bbox="846 1182 1094 1213">1</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1182 1336 1213">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1213 846 1245">NPCC</td> <td data-bbox="846 1213 1094 1245">1</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1213 1336 1245">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1245 846 1276">SERC</td> <td data-bbox="846 1245 1094 1276">1</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1245 1336 1276">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1276 846 1308">SPP</td> <td data-bbox="846 1276 1094 1308">1</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1276 1336 1308">X</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="604 1308 846 1350">WECC</td> <td data-bbox="846 1308 1094 1350">1</td> <td data-bbox="1094 1308 1336 1350">X</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>RRO</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Proportional Voting</u>	FRCC	1	X	RFC	1	X	ERCOT	1	X	MRO	1	X	NPCC	1	X	SERC	1	X	SPP	1	X	WECC
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FRCC	1	X																									
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SERC	1	X																									
SPP	1	X																									
WECC	1	X																									
12. State government	(See Government representatives below)	2																									
Officers	Chair and Vice Chair	2																									
<b>Total Voting Members</b>		<b>26</b>																									

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Name	Definition	Members
<b>Non-Voting Members<sup>1</sup></b>		
Government representatives	This sector includes any federal, state, or provincial government department or agency in North America having a regulatory and/or policy interest in wholesale electricity. Entities with regulatory oversight over the Corporation or any regional entity, including U.S., Canadian, and Mexican federal agencies and any provincial entity in Canada having statutory oversight over the Corporation or a regional entity with respect to the approval and/or enforcement of reliability standards, may be nonvoting members of this sector.	
	United States federal government	2
	Canadian federal government	1
	Provincial government	1
Secretary	The committee secretary will be seated at the committee table	1
Subcommittee Chairs	The chairs of the subcommittees will be seated at the committee table.	

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<sup>1</sup> Industry associations and organizations and other government agencies in the U.S. and Canada may attend meetings as non-voting observers.

## Appendix 2 – Meeting Procedures

### Section 1. Voting Procedures for Motions

- a. The default procedure is a voice vote.
- b. If the chair believes the voice vote is not conclusive, he may call for a show of hands.
- c. The chair will not specifically ask those who are abstaining to identify themselves when voting by voice or a show of hands.
- d. The committee may conduct a roll-call vote in those situations that need a record of each member's vote.
  - The committee must approve conducting a roll-call vote for the motion.
  - The secretary will call each member's name.
  - Members may answer “yes,” “no,” or “present” if they wish to abstain from voting.

### Section 2. Minutes

#### 1. General guidelines.

- a. Meeting minutes are a record of what the committee did, not what its members said.
- b. Minutes should list discussion points where appropriate, but should usually not attribute comments to individuals. It is acceptable to cite the chair's directions, summaries, and assignments.
- c. Do not list the person who seconds a motion.
- d. Do not record (or even ask for) abstentions.

2. **Minority Opinions.** All committee members are afforded the opportunity to provide alternative views on an issue. The meeting minutes will provide an exhibit to record minority opinions. The chair shall report both the majority and any minority views in presenting results to the Board of Trustees.

3. **Personal Statements.** The minutes will also provide an exhibit to record personal statements.

## Appendix 3 – Officer Selection Process

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The committee selects officers using the following process. The chair is selected first, followed by the vice chair.

- a. The chair opens the floor for nominations.
- b. After hearing no further nominations, the chair closes the nominating process.
- c. If the committee nominates one person, that person is automatically selected as the next chair.
- d. If the committee nominates two or more persons, then the secretary will distribute paper ballots for the members to mark their preference.
- e. The secretary will collect the ballots. If the committee nominates three or more candidates, then the winner will be selected using the Instant Runoff Process. (Explained in Robert's Rules of Order.)

## Appendix 4 – Report/Reliability Guideline Approval Process

### General Process for Approval of Reports

Report Category	Review Process	Approval process
<p>Reliability guidelines</p>	<p><i>The specific review process found below for Reliability Guidelines will be followed</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A draft guideline will be provided to the PC at a regular meeting.</li> <li>3) After the 45 day public comment period, the comments received as well as draft responses to the comments will be provide to the PC at a regular meeting.</li> </ol>	<p><i>The specific approval process found below for Reliability Guidelines will be followed</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) At the regular meeting, the PC will consider the draft guideline for approval to post for comments.</li> <li>4) At the regular meeting, the PC will consider the draft guideline, including the comments received and responses for approval to post as final.</li> </ol>
<p>Long-term and seasonal reliability assessments</p>	<p><i>The PC will continue to separately approve the schedule for reviewing these documents.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A draft assessment will be provided to the PC at a regular meeting, or if approval is required between regular meetings, the PC will schedule a Web meeting, and the draft made available to the PC for review and comment 10 days prior to the Web meeting.</li> </ol>	<p><i>The PC will continue to separately approve the schedule for approving these documents.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) At the regular meeting, The PC will consider the draft assessment for approval or during a Web meeting scheduled by the PC.</li> </ol>
<p>All other reports developed by a PC subgroup to be posted on NERC’s Website when completed (technical documents, white papers, special assessments, etc.)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A draft report will be submitted to the PC at a regular meeting.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) A draft report will be submitted at one meeting, with the opportunity to provide comments both during and after that meeting. Unless directed by the PC in its review of the draft report, there is no specific requirement for public posting and comment since the PC agenda that contains the draft report is publically noticed.</li> <li>3) A final report may be considered for approval no earlier than the next meeting, unless the PC decides to act sooner.</li> </ol>

Report Category	Review Process	Approval process
<p>A report requested by the PC that accompanies or recommends a <i>Rules of Procedure (ROP) Section 1600 - Data or Information Request.</i></p>	<p><i>Section 1600 requires a description of the data to be requested and why the data is needed.</i></p> <p>1) A Section 1600 data request, with the draft supporting documentation, will be provided to the PC at a regular meeting.</p> <p>3) The subgroup will review and develop responses to comments on the draft report and provide a final draft report, including all required documentation for the final data request, to the PC at a regular meeting.</p>	<p><i>The final draft of the data request must be approved by NERC's BOT, and will include responses to comments received and any modifications made to the data request.</i></p> <p>2) The draft data request and supporting documentation will be considered for approval to post for comments at the PC regular meeting.</p> <p>4) The PC will consider the final draft of the data request and supporting documentation, including comments received and draft responses, at the regular meeting.</p>
<p>Reports with deadlines set by NERC's Board or outside the Planning Committee's control</p>	<p>1) The draft report will be provided to the PC as scheduled by the PC.</p>	<p>2) At the time scheduled by the PC, the PC will consider the report for approval.</p>

The PC and its Executive Committee recognizes the need for flexibility in the review and approval process defined above. As such these are provided as guidelines to be followed by its subgroups.

Requests for exceptions may be brought to the PC at its regular meetings or to the Executive Committee, if the exception cannot wait for a PC meeting. In all cases, a final report may be considered for approval if the PC decides to act sooner.

### **Approval Process for Reliability Guidelines**

1. **Reliability Guidelines**

*Reliability guidelines* are documents that suggest approaches or behavior in a given technical area for the purpose of improving reliability. Reliability guidelines are not binding norms or mandatory requirements. Reliability guidelines may be adopted by a responsible entity in accordance with its own facts and circumstances.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Standards Committee authorization is required for a reliability guideline to become a supporting document that is posted with or referenced from a NERC Reliability Standard. See Appendix 3A in NERC's *Rules of Procedure* under "Supporting Documents."

2. Approval of Reliability Guidelines

Because reliability guidelines contain suggestions that may result in actions by responsible entities, those suggestions must be thoroughly vetted before a new or updated guideline receives approval by a technical committee. The process described below will be followed by the Planning Committee:

- a. New/updated draft guideline approved for industry posting. The Planning Committee approves for posting for industry comment the release of a new or updated draft guideline developed by one of its subgroups or the committee as a whole.
- b. Post draft guideline for industry comment. The draft guideline is posted for industry-wide comment for forty-five (45) days. If the draft guideline is an update, a redline version against the previous version must also be posted.
- c. Post industry comments and responses. After the public comment period, the Planning Committee will post the comments received as well as its responses to the comments. The committee may delegate the preparation of responses to a committee subgroup.
- d. New/updated guideline approval and posting. A new or updated guideline which considers the comments received, is approved by the Planning Committee and posted as “Approved” on the NERC Web site. Updates must include a revision history and a redline version against the previous version.
- e. Guideline updates. After posting a new or updated guideline, the Planning Committee will continue to accept comments from the industry via a Web-based forum where commenters may post their comments.
  - i. Each quarter, the Planning Committee will review the comments received. At any time, the Planning Committee may decide to update the guideline based on the comments received or on changes in the industry that necessitate an update.
  - ii. Updating an existing guideline will require that a draft updated guideline be approved by the Planning Committee in step “a” and proceed to steps “b” and “c” until it is approved by the Planning Committee in step “d.”