NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

LTRA Data Collection and Analysis Process

Data Collection Process

The data request letter, containing an Excel workbook attachment, is sent out to the NERC Regional Managers and corresponding data coordinators. The workbook contains several spreadsheets representing various data collection schedules. These schedules were based off of the EIA (Energy Information Administration) Form 411 and have been revised as needed for the NERC LTRA and seasonal assessments.

The data submissions are usually due by March 31 of the data collection year. The data coordinators from each region are expected to submit one workbook for their region and each subregion if applicable.

All workbooks are renamed for processing purposes and placed into a ‘Data Submissions’ file folder on NERC’s internal servers. An Access database is used to extract the data from all of the workbooks. This allows the data to be queried as needed. The data is exported to tables and charts that are linked into the draft version of the LTRA report. The process is semi-automated using VBA to extract, import and export the bulk of the data and the rest is manual using Access queries and Excel PivotTables to summarize data.

Data Analysis

Data analysis begins after the first set of tables and charts have been created. Demand and capacity is compared to previous years to determine any significant differences in projections. Also, the demand and capacity data is sent to the LFWG to create the projected bandwidths. This in turn allows us to create some additional charts to be inserted into the back of each self-assessment.

Additionally the data is compared to the text of the regional self-assessments to verify consistency and accuracy between the region and NERC.

To shed some light on emerging issues the data is queried to help identify significant changes or trends in these areas.

Any suggestion and support from the DCWG in the data analysis area would be greatly appreciated.