

Reliability Assessment Subcommittee Scope

June 2018

Purpose

The Reliability Assessment Subcommittee (RAS) reviews, assesses, and reports on the overall reliability (adequacy and security) impacting the bulk power systems, both existing and as planned. Those reviews and assessments verify that each Assessment Area¹ conforms to its own planning criteria, guides, and the applicable NERC Reliability Standards. Further guidance for any reliability assessment is provided in the *NERC Rules of Procedure: Section 800*.²

In addition to supporting the peer review process for NERC's reliability assessments, the RAS will also provide input and guidance on the development of assessment data collections forms. Specifically, the RAS will serve as a platform for collaborative enhancements of current data collection processes to improve the accuracy, consistency, transparency, and efficiency of NERC's reliability assessments. This effort will involve collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Energy Information Administration (EIA) and other governmental agencies with a goal of reducing duplicative reporting while promoting consistent data definitions.

Scope of Activities

1. Evaluate bulk power systems' conformance to respective Assessment Area planning criteria and guides, along with pertinent NERC Reliability Standards over the assessment period.
2. Support the annual review of each Assessment Area's long-term and short-term resource adequacy plans. This includes:
 - a. Identifying and monitor the key issues, risks, and uncertainties that may impact or have the potential to impact bulk power system reliability;
 - b. Coordinating timely submittals of Assessment Area narratives and responses to questions developed by NERC with support from the RAS.
3. Address and resolve any potential reliability issues or differences between the subcommittee's assessment and the assessment area's internal or interregional reliability assessment(s). Report any unresolved issues or differences to the NERC Planning Committee (PC).
4. Upon request of the PC or Operating Committee, conduct special reliability assessments, as conditions warrant (in addition to those defined above). Present results and findings to the PC, Operating Committee, and others as appropriate.

¹ Based on existing ISO/RTO footprints; otherwise, based on individual Planning Coordinator or group of Planning Coordinators. NERC collects data for seasonal and long-term assessments based on these footprints that align with how the system is planned and operated.

² [NERC Rules of Procedure](#).

5. Facilitate data collection efforts of the Regional Entities and stakeholders for NERC's reliability assessments and identify and propose recommendations for improved RAS data collection efforts.
6. Seek feedback on any new data definitions approved by the PC and provide recommendations to the PC for consideration.
7. Develop recommendations for new data development and presentation options in NERC's reliability assessments.
8. Collaborate with EIA to promote efficiency, consistent data definitions, eliminate duplicative data collection, and improve overall data quality, including, but not limited to: Forms EIA-411, EIA-860, and EIA-860M.
9. Coordinate review of assigned Essential Reliability Services forward looking measures with the applicable reporting entities for inclusion in NERC's assessments.
 - a. [ERS Framework Measure 6: Forward-Looking Net Demand Ramping Variability](#)
 - b. [ERS Framework Measures 1,2, and 4: Forward Looking Frequency Analysis](#)
10. Establish working groups, as required, to support analysis and work products.

Working Groups

Working groups report to the RAS. Working group's scope, objectives, duration, deliverables, and other related documents will be endorsed by the RAS for approval in accordance with the PC charter.

Representation

The RAS chair and vice chair will be appointed by the NERC PC leadership for a two-year term. The vice chair should be available to succeed to the chair.

The Operating Committee representatives are appointed by the chair of the Operating Committee. Representation on this Subcommittee follows established PC guidelines for representatives.

Subcommittee members are appointed by their Region or electric industry sector for two-year terms, without limit to the number of terms. Any Region or electric industry sector may name an alternate representative(s) who may attend RAS meetings.

Any member category as defined above that does not provide a representative in a timely fashion is requested to formally decline its invitation to participate in the subcommittee in writing to the chair of the RAS.

Reporting

The RAS will report to the PC for the completion of work associated with the scope items outlined above, and final work products of the RAS will be reviewed and considered by the PC and or the NERC Board of Trustees. The RAS chair will periodically apprise the PC, Operating Committee, and Board of Trustees, as required, on the subcommittee's activities, assignments, and recommendations.

Membership

The subcommittee is comprised of the following:

- Chair
- Vice chair
- One representative and one alternate from each Regional Entity – at least one of which must be Regional Entity staff (May also be the chair or vice-chair).
- One representative and one alternate from each Assessment Area that is not a Region
- At least two representatives from the NERC Operating Committee
- One member-at-large from Canada
- At least one representative from each sector listed below:
 - Investor-Owned Utilities
 - Areas where there are no organized markets
- Additional members can be added:
 - At the request of the PC sector representatives, or
 - As requested by Regional Entity or Assessment Area staff, and upon approval by the NERC staff coordinator
- NERC staff coordinator(s)
- Liaison members include, but not limited to:
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
 - United States Department of Energy (DOE)
 - National Energy Board, Canada

Additional guest participation of industry experts may be requested to support RAS activities.

Order of Business

In general, the desired, normal tone of RAS business is to strive for constructive technically sound solutions which also achieve consensus. On the relatively few occasions where desired outcome cannot be achieved, the RAS will defer to the PC to settle the issue. If strong minority opinions develop, those opinions may be documented as desired by the minority and forwarded to the RAS Chair and PC Chair for future meeting consideration.

NERC staff advice should be about what the ERO needs to be successful. The above normal tone of the RAS to seek a technically sound consensus is very important. NERC staff and RAS observers are also expected to strive for constructive technically sound solutions and seek consensus.

Meetings

Four to six open meetings per year, or as needed.