

Reliability Assessment Subcommittee Scope

Purpose

The Reliability Assessment Subcommittee (RAS) reviews, assesses, and reports on the overall reliability (adequacy and security) of 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. The Reliability Assessment Subcommittee's Review and Assessment Process is described in NERC's *Reliability Assessment Guidebook*.² Further guidance for reliability assessment is provided in the *NERC Rules of Procedure: Section 800*.³

Activities

1. Evaluate bulk power systems' conformance to their respective assessment area planning criteria and guides, along with pertinent NERC Reliability Standards over the assessment period.
2. Annually review and assess the overall reliability⁴ of the assessment area bulk power system plans over a ten-year horizon. Present the results and findings to the Planning Committee, Operating Committee, Board of Trustees, and the public in the Long-Term Reliability Assessment report.
 - a. Assess and report on the key issues, risks, and uncertainties that affect or have the potential to affect the reliability of existing and future bulk power system.
 - b. Review, analyze, and report on assessment area self-assessments of electric supply and bulk power transmission reliability, including reliability issues of specific concern.
 - c. Investigate, assess, and report on the potential impacts of new and evolving electricity market practices, new or proposed regulatory procedures, and new or proposed legislation (e.g. environmental requirements) on the adequacy and operating reliability of the bulk power systems.
3. Seasonally (summer and winter) review, assess, and report on the overall reliability (adequacy and security) of the assessment area's bulk power systems from an operational planning perspective. The results are provided to NERC's Planning Committee, Operating Committee, Board of Trustees, and the public. Seasonally (summer and winter) review, assess, and report on the overall reliability (adequacy and security) of the assessment areas and interregional bulk power systems from an operational "look-back" perspective. The goal of this task is to assess planned operating/mitigation strategy implementation, document new strategies developed during the season, document actual operational experiences and share lessons learned. Present results and findings to the Performance Analysis Subcommittee for publication in their annual report.

¹ Assessment area refers to the Region, subregion, ISO/RTO operating area, or other defined planning/operating area being assessed.

² <http://www.nerc.com/page.php?cid=4|322>

³ http://www.nerc.com/files/NERC_Rules_of_Procedure_EFFECTIVE_20110825.pdf

⁴ Reliability as defined in the NERC Reliability Concepts Document.

4. Maintain the *NERC Reliability Assessment Guidebook* and recommend modifications for approval as necessary.
5. Address and resolve any potential reliability issues or differences between the subcommittee's assessment and that assessment area's internal or interregional reliability assessment(s). Report any unresolved issues or differences to the NERC Planning Committee.
6. Upon request of the Planning Committee or Operating Committee, conduct special reliability assessments, as conditions warrant (in addition to those defined above). Present results and findings to the Planning Committee, Operating Committee, and others as appropriate.
7. Conduct probabilistic assessments based on recommendations from the GTRPMTF final report and recommendations.⁵ Coordinate the development of probabilistic metric results by assessment area that may be included in the Long-Term Reliability Assessment

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.
- At least two representatives from the NERC Operating Committee
- One member-at-large representing Canada
- At least one representative from:
 - Investor-Owned Utility
 - Areas where there are no organized markets
- Additional members can be added:
 - At the request of the Planning Committee sector representatives, or
 - As needed by the NERC coordinator
- Reliability Assessment Subcommittee subgroup chairs
- NERC staff coordinator(s)
- Liaison members include, but not limited to:
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 - United States Department of Energy
 - National Energy Board, Canada

⁵ [http://www.nerc.com/docs/pc/gtrpmtf/GTRPMTF_Meth_& Metrics_Report_final_w_PC_approvals_revisions_12.08.10.pdf](http://www.nerc.com/docs/pc/gtrpmtf/GTRPMTF_Meth_&_Metrics_Report_final_w_PC_approvals_revisions_12.08.10.pdf)

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

The subcommittee chair and vice chair are appointed by the chair of the NERC Planning Committee for one, 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 Planning Committee 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 Planning Committee.

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 that desired outcome cannot be achieved, the RAS will defer to a vote by the Planning Committee to settle the issue. If any 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 Observers are also expected to strive for constructive technically sound solutions and seek consensus.

Reporting

The subcommittee is responsible to the Planning Committee for the completion of work associated with the scope items outlined above, and final work products of the RAS will be approved as necessary by the Planning Committee and the Board of Trustees. The subcommittee chair will periodically apprise the Planning Committee, Operating Committee, and Board of Trustees, as required, on the subcommittee's activities, assignments, and recommendations.

Meetings

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

Approved by the NERC Planning Committee: December, 2011