

**NERC**

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

# Reliability Issues Steering Committee Charter

Approved by the NERC Board of Trustees  
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**RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY**



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# Table of Contents

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RISC Charter .....	1
Purpose .....	1
Reporting .....	1
Overview and Functions .....	1
Membership.....	1
Officers.....	2
Meetings .....	2

# RISC Charter

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## Purpose

The Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC or Committee) is an advisory committee that triages and provides front-end, high-level leadership for issues of strategic importance to bulk power system (BPS) reliability and offers high-level stakeholder leadership engagement and input on issues that impact bulk-power system reliability. The RISC advises the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Board of Trustees (Board), NERC standing committees, NERC staff, regulators, Regional Entities, and industry stakeholders to establish a common understanding of the scope, priority, and goals for the development of solutions to address these issues, including the use of solutions other than the development of new or revised reliability standards. In doing so, the RISC provides a framework for steering, developing, formalizing, and organizing recommendations to help NERC and the industry effectively focus their resources on the critical issues needed to best improve the reliability of the BPS.

## Reporting

The RISC reports directly to the Board. The Board shall approve this Charter and any amendments to this Charter pursuant to Section 1300 of the NERC Rules of Procedure.

## Overview and Functions

The RISC performs two primary functions for the Board.

The first function of the RISC is evaluating bulk power system reliability issues and risks. The RISC provides strategic leadership and advice to the NERC Board of Trustees and others to triage key reliability risks and propose solutions to manage those risks.

Second, the RISC provides an annual analysis of risks to the bulk power system, and produces a relative prioritization of the risks. The prioritization is designed to advise:

- annual ERO action planning, resource allocation, budgeting and strategic planning processes; and
- standing committee planning, including the development of the Reliability Standards Development Plan.

In addition, the RISC performs such other functions that may, from time to time, be delegated or assigned by the Board.

## Membership

The RISC shall be comprised of the following allocation of members:

1. At least six (6) stakeholder-based— four (4) from the MRC and at least two (2) At-Large members (not members of the MRC);
2. Five (5) committee-based—one (1) from each of the standing committees: Standards (SC), Operating (OC), Planning (PC), Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIPC), and Compliance and Certification (CCC). The Board will be responsible for appointing the committee-based members to the RISC. These members will be the chair or vice chair unless otherwise recommended by the standing committee and be subject to NERC Board approval.

In advance of the annual February Board meeting, a RISC Nominating Committee (RISCNC) chaired by the Member Representatives Committee (MRC) vice chair will be formed to solicit a pool of candidates, with the goal of meeting the following general criteria:

1. Geographic and International diversity, including international, such that Eastern, Western, and Texas Interconnections, along with Canada are represented on the RISC;
2. Sector, size, and asset (transmission, distribution, load, generation, etc.) diversity;
3. High-level understanding and perspective on reliability risks;
4. Experience in a leadership role or background in an executive-level position is strongly preferred; and
5. Balanced consideration of these criteria, across the entire membership of the RISC.

The Board is responsible for appointing the committee-based, MRC and At Large members to the RISC. At the February Board meeting each year (or as needed), the RISCNC shall present to the Board a recommended slate of all RISC member candidates as appropriate for consideration and approval. All MRC and At-Large members will be appointed by the Board to serve for two-year terms. Membership terms will be staggered to ensure continuity.

## Officers

1. **Selection of the Chair** - The Board shall appoint a chair of the RISC to serve a two-year term and direct the activities of the RISC, and work toward reaching consensus on all recommendations and actions.
2. **Selection and Duties of the Secretary** - NERC will appoint one senior staff person to serve as a secretary with the responsibility to:
  - a. Prepare, distribute and post notices of Committee meetings, record meeting proceedings, and prepare, distribute and post meeting minutes.
  - b. Maintain a record of all Committee proceedings, including responses, and correspondence.
  - c. Maintain Committee membership records.

## Meetings

1. **Open Meetings** - Meetings shall occur at least once every quarter and can be in person or by conference call as determined by the chair. All meetings of the RISC will be open to all interested parties (except as noted in the paragraph below for confidential sessions). Only members may act on items before the Committee. Meeting notices shall be publicly posted on the NERC website on the same day they are distributed to Committee members. Final minutes of Committee meetings shall be publicly posted on the NERC website. Notices shall describe the purpose of meetings and shall identify a readily available source for further information about the meeting.
2. **General Requirements** - The Committee shall hold meetings as needed and may use conference calls or email to conduct its business.
3. **Notice** - The RISC secretary shall announce its regularly scheduled meetings with a written notice (letter or e-mail) to all Committee members not less than ten and no more than sixty calendar days prior to the date of the meeting.
4. **Agenda** - The RISC secretary shall provide an agenda with a written notice (letter, facsimile, or e-mail) for Committee meetings no less than five business days before a proposed meeting.
  - a. The agenda shall include, as necessary, background material for agenda items requiring a decision.

- b. The agenda shall be posted on the NERC website the same day it is distributed to Committee members.
  - c. Items not in the agenda that require a decision cannot be added at a meeting without the consensus of the members present. If such a matter comes up, it may also be deferred to the next meeting so that Committee members have time to consult with others.
5. **Quorum.** The quorum necessary for the transaction of business (*i.e.*, formal actions) at meetings of the committee is a majority of the members currently on the committee roster (*i.e.*, not including vacancies). The committee may engage in discussions without a quorum present.
  6. **Proxies.** Proxies are not permitted.
  7. **Observers.** Non-members may observe RISC meetings, either in person or via conference call.
  8. **Confidential Sessions.** The chair of the RISC 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 will be applied sparingly and on a nondiscriminatory basis as needed to protect critical energy infrastructure information and other information that is sensitive to one or more parties.