

Reliability Assessment Subcommittee

Scope

Purpose

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

In addition to conducting a 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 defined assessment period.
2. Support the annual review of each Assessment Area's long-term and short-term resource adequacy plans. This includes:
 - a. Identify and monitor the key issues, risks, and uncertainties that may impact or have the potential to impact bulk power system reliability;
 - b. Coordinate timely submittals of Assessment Area narratives and responses to questions developed by NERC with input and support from the RAS.
3. Address and resolve 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 Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC).
4. Upon request of the Reliability and Security Committee (RSTC), conduct special reliability assessments, as conditions warrant (in addition to those defined above). Present results and findings to the RSTC and others, as appropriate.
5. Facilitate data collection efforts of the Regional Entities and stakeholders for NERC's reliability assessments. Identify and propose recommendations for improved RAS data collection efforts.

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](#)

6. Seek feedback on any new data definitions approved by the RSTC and provide recommendations to the RSTC for consideration.
7. Develop recommendations for new data analysis 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: 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](#)
10. [ERS Framework Measures 1,2, and 4: Forward Looking Frequency Analysis](#) Establish working groups, as required and approved by the RSTC, to support analysis and work products.
11. Review emerging or best practices of reliability assessment for potential consideration into RAS practices and work products.

Working Groups

Working groups are able to report to the RAS, as approved by the RSTC. Working group's scope, objectives, duration, work plans/deliverables, and other related documents will be endorsed by the RAS for RSTC consideration of approval, in accordance with the RSTC charter. The RAS may recommend to the RSTC the creation of a Working Group to address a reliability need within the RAS' purview.

Beginning in 2017, the Probabilistic Assessment Working Group (PAWG) reports to the RAS.

Representation

The RAS chair and Vice Chair will be appointed by the NERC RSTC leadership for a two-year term. The Vice Chair should be available to ascend to the Chair.

Subcommittee members are appointed by their Region or a NERC entity within the Assessment Area. Any Region or NERC entity within the Assessment Area may designate an alternate representative(s) who may attend RAS meetings.

Reporting

The RAS will report to the RSTC 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 RSTC and or the NERC Board of Trustees. Unless otherwise specified by the RAS Chair, the RAS Chair will periodically report to the RSTC on the subcommittee's, and reporting Working Group'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 RAS Chair or Vice Chair).
- One representative and one alternate from each Assessment Area that is not a Region
- 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 RSTC 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)
 - RSTC (Sponsor)

Additional 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 outcomes or consensus cannot be achieved, the RAS will defer to the RSTC to resolve the issue. If strong minority opinions develop, those opinions should be documented as desired by the minority and forwarded to the RAS Chair, RAS RSTC Sponsor, and RSTC Chair for consideration of future discussion(s).

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.

Scope Review

The RAS Scope shall be reviewed on a biennial basis.