

Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) Work Plan Process

The Work Plan Process document promotes a clear and consistent process for developing the annual RSTC Work Plan in accordance with the RSTC Charter in support of the RSTC Strategic Plan. The Work Plan is approved by the RSTC each year in accordance with this process, with quarterly updates presented by technical subcommittees, task forces, and working groups (“Technical Subgroups”) for discussion. Any recommended interim Work Plan changes will be acted on at the next meeting of the RSTC Executive Committee (RSTC EC).

Background

The RSTC appoints Technical Subgroups as needed to accomplish objectives contained in the RSTC Strategic Plan, NERC Work Plan Priorities, ERO Reliability Risk Priorities Report (RISC Report), and other ERO Enterprise strategic guidance. The RSTC is responsible for directing and overseeing the work of the Technical Subgroups (Technical Subgroup’s Scopes) and for their work products and coordinating with the Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC), Standards Committee (SC), and other NERC program areas and Standing Committees. All RSTC work products (apart from routine activities such as Reliability and Security Guideline maintenance) should be reflected in the RSTC Work Plan.

Each year, the RSTC reviews Technical Subgroup proposed and pending projects, provides guidance and advice, and is responsible for determining which Technical Subgroup is most appropriately suited to execute a given assignment.¹ This will result in a proposed Work Plan for the year’s RSTC deliverables, including prioritization.² The RSTC will review and then vote on the Work Plan on an annual basis. All anticipated work products should be included in this annual process.

Moreover, from time to time a mid-year update to the Work Plan may be appropriate to address an identified risk to bulk power system reliability or security. Any proposed Work Plan updates, will be presented by the relevant Technical Subgroup to the RSTC at one of its quarterly meetings. The RSTC EC will vote on the item at its next meeting and inform the RSTC of its decision in accordance with the Charter.

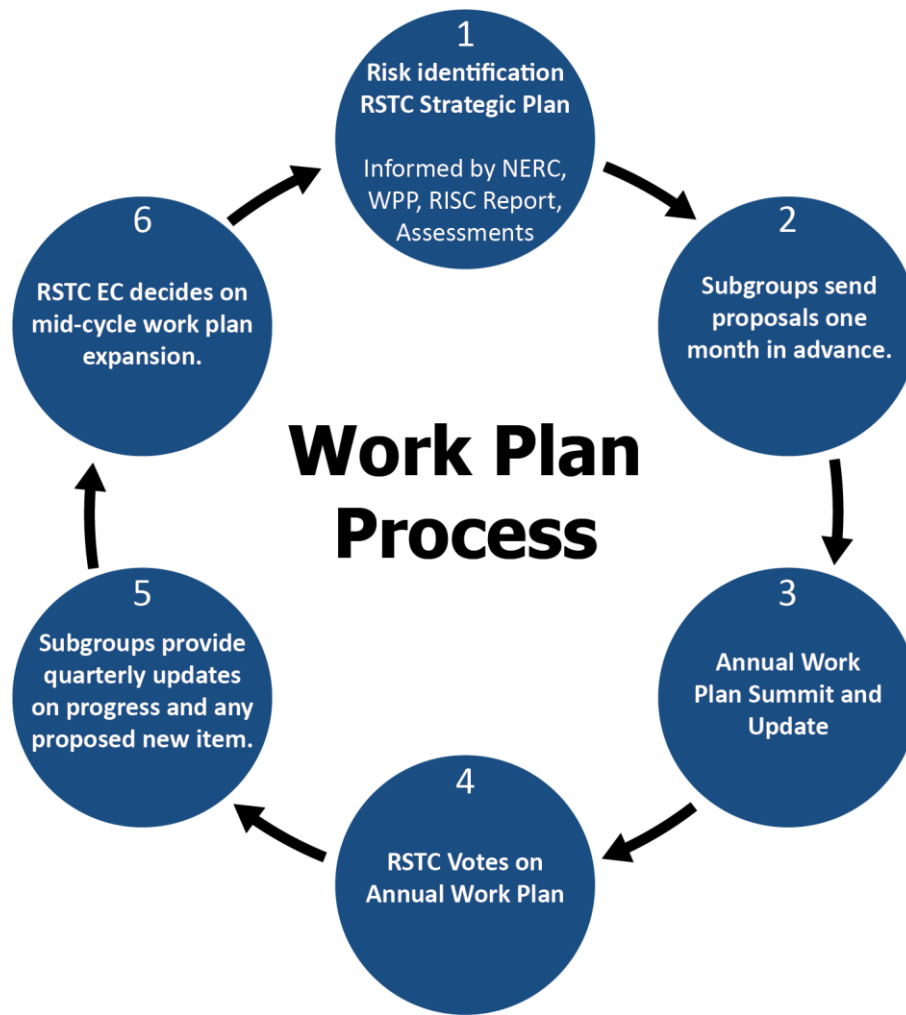
The Work Plan will be posted on NERC’s website.

Please see the following diagram for illustration of the process:

¹ Responsibilities of the RSTC and the RSTCEC with respect to Technical Subgroups are specified in the RSTC Charter, Sections 5 and 6. https://www.nerc.com/comm/RSTC/Related%20Files%202013/RSTC_Charter_RSTC_Approved_Board_May_2018.pdf

² Reports directed by the NERC Board or prescribed by NERC Rules of Procedure (such as those related to the State of Reliability Report and Assessments) have established review and endorsement processes that may differ from the process described here.

Process Flow Chart



These steps should be read in concert with the NERC Reliability Risk Framework which describes the cycle between risk identification, prioritization, mitigation measure development, mitigation deployment, evaluating success, and monitoring continued status. *See, Table 1.*

Finally, Technical Subgroup work below in Table 1 should be accomplished with input from the RSTC assigned member-sponsor consistent with sponsor expectations in the RSTC Charter. *See Section 3, RSTC Charter.*

Table 1: How RSTC Work Plan Process is Part of the Reliability Risk Framework

Activity	Group	Description
Risk Identification and Validation	Technical Subgroup ³	<p>Prepare a technical justification with need and scope to address an identified reliability, security, or resilience risk. Scoping includes answering the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the risk and how does it impact BPS reliability? • How this is within scope of ERO goals and objectives? • What is the involvement required from other ERO groups? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the level of existing technical awareness in industry? ▪ What subject-matter expertise has been involved, or is needed? • Whether the measure proposed would include a Whitepaper, Guideline, Standard Authorization Requests (SARs), or other deliverable listed in the RSTC Charter? <p>Provide the technical justification and proposed mitigation(s) to address the identified risk at the RSTC annual Work Plan meeting.</p> <p>To the extent an update is necessary, technical justification and proposed mitigation(s) would be presented to the RSTC and then acted upon at next RSTC EC meeting.</p>
Risk Prioritization	RSTC	<p>Prioritization is accomplished through an analysis of its exposure, scope, and duration as well as impact and likelihood. Prioritization is informed by the RISC Report which identifies and prioritizes short-term and long-term risks to reliability, NERC Work Plan Priorities, and RSTC Strategic Plan. The RSTC will incorporate mitigation and evaluation of the identified risk according to its priority into the RSTC annual work plan.</p>
Remediation and Mitigation Identification and Evaluation	Technical Subgroup and RSTC	<p>The Technical Subgroup and RSTC consider the identified risk, technical justification, proposed mitigation, and reference materials.</p> <p>The RSTC considers the potential mitigations.</p> <p>Consistent with Section 8 of the RSTC Charter, mitigation tools might include, for example, white papers, reference documents, technical reports, Reliability and Security Guidelines, or SARs.⁴</p> <p>Technical Subgroup provides updates on deliverable(s)' progress by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing and reporting on progress to the RSTC (at least quarterly) • Presenting any appropriate updates to the RSTC (quarterly meeting) for discussion and subsequent vote by the RSTC EC.

³ Risks might be identified by a Technical Subgroup or other sources (such as another Standing Committee, NERC governing body, or stakeholder group). The RSTC and/or RSTC EC can assign a Technical Subgroup to support development of a technical justification as needed. As stated above, the Technical Subgroup should consider input from its RSTC sponsor consistent with the Charter.

⁴ SARs should also follow the RSTC SAR development process.

Table 1: How RSTC Work Plan Process is Part of the Reliability Risk Framework		
Activity	Group	Description
RSTC Deploy Mitigation	RSTC	When the Technical Subgroup is ready, the draft deliverable shall be presented to the RSTC in accordance with the Charter. Once the RSTC has approved, endorsed or accepted the deliverable(s), it (they) will be implemented for next steps.
Measure Success	RSTC	At the annual Work Plan meeting, the RSTC will evaluate whether any remaining work on a prior item must be completed or whether ongoing work is appropriate for inclusion in the next Work Plan.
Monitoring Risks	RSTC	The RSTC will continue to evaluate reliability and security risks, with updates to the Work Plan in accordance with this process document.