

NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standing Committees Coordinating Group (SCCG) Quarterly Report

August 2023 Update

RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY



Standing Committees Coordinating Group (SCCG)

Co-Chairs: Todd Bennett (SC), Rich Hydzik (RSTC)

Purpose: The SCCG advises the NERC standing committees, NERC staff, regulators, Regional Entities, and industry stakeholders on standing committee cross-cutting initiatives to address risks to the BPS by implementing the risk framework and addressing issues identified in the risk registry and/or NERC assessments. The SCCG's activities enhance transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of NERC Standing Committee work, by ensuring communication and coordination on a regular basis.

SCCG SPSEG Recommendations

- The SCCG should review the SAR Form and recommend revisions to enhance the role of this important tool in the standards process (NERC Staff Recommendation 2a).
- The SCCG should perform a regular review of new standards projects to aid in effective project prioritization (NERC Staff Recommendation 2g).
- The SCCG should work to expand participation in the Reliability Standards Quality Review (QR) process (NERC Staff Recommendation 7).

Schedule to address SPSEG Recommendations:

- SAR Form: The SCCG has reviewed an initial draft of a revised SAR form. Comments are being collected for discussion at the June SCCG meeting. Final SCCG recommendations were discussed at the August 15 meeting.
- Prioritization: The SCCG was presented a proposal for SAR/Standards Prioritization by NERC Staff. The SCCG will review an updated proposal at the June WebEx. The SCCG continued the review and the prioritization process at the August 15 meeting. The RSTC is also incorporating a requirement for SAR developers from RSTC groups to propose a priority when submitting the SAR to the RSTC for endorsement.
- QR Participation: The SCCG developed a volunteer form that contained detailed volunteer information based on feedback from NERC Standards Staff. This information will be used by NERC Staff to select the best candidates to perform a QR. Each committee has sent the form to their membership with a request to volunteer for QR.

Recent Activity

- Approved 2nd Quarter Collaboration Report
- Began review of Risk Framework and opportunities for improvement/clarity of SCCG Feedback loops.
- Continued discussions on addressing SPEC recommendations for SCCG.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- September 19, 2023 Hybrid Meeting

Compliance and Certification Committee (CCC)

Chair: Scott Tomashefsky Vice-Chair: Silvia Parada Mitchell

Purpose: The CCC will engage, support, and advise the NERC Board and NERC Management regarding all facets of the NERC Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program, and Organization Registration and Certification Programs and specific elements of the Reliability Standards Development Process.

Recent Risk Identification, Mitigation, Monitoring Activity

- Continued support of ERO Program Alignment topics, including
 - Program Consistency
 - Implementation Guidance
 - CMEP Practice Guide Reviews
- Inform risk-based standards development, shape compliance oversight
- Stakeholder Perception Feedback
 - Q3 Focused Discussion –
 - Measuring residual risk
 - Self-Logging
- Align User Group Participation

Top Priorities for SCCG Discussion:

- Supporting Use of the Risk Framework
 - Measuring Residual Risk
- Implementing BOT Standards Process Improvement directives
 - SAR Reforms
 - Prioritizing Process for New Standards Projects
- Maximizing Value of Stakeholder Feedback for ERO Enterprise

Upcoming Risk Identification, Mitigation, Monitoring Activity

- Additional review of residual risk
- Stakeholder Perception Feedback
 - Q4 Focused Discussion – Align
- Support ERO efforts to finalize updates to registration criteria associated with IBRs
- Consistency Reporting Tool Working Group established

What information/guidance/support is needed from another committee?

- RSTC (Risk Tool Selection ((Guideline, SAR, White Papers, etc.)))
- SC (Part of Joint SC/CCC Standards Grading Task Force, Standards Development Quality Review)
- All Committees (Stakeholder Perception Feedback input)
- RISC (Feedback loops for risk reliability priorities)

Personnel Certification Governance Committee (PCGC)

Chair: Cory Danson Vice-Chair: Michael B. Hoke

Purpose: The PCGC shall be to provide oversight to the policies and processes used to implement and maintain the integrity and independence of NERC's System Operator Certification Program.

Top Priorities for SCCG Discussion:

- Review program changes with SCCG for awareness/feedback
- Continue to develop work plan for incorporating recommended changes into the Certification and Credential Maintenance program

What information/guidance/support is needed from another committee?

- N/A

Recent Risk Identification, Mitigation, Monitoring Activity

- N/A

Upcoming Risk Identification, Mitigation, Monitoring Activity

- FERC & Industry acceptance on direction of program changes.

Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC)

Chair: Brian Slocum Vice-Chair: Adrienne Collins

Purpose: The RISC is an advisory committee that triages and provides front-end, high-level leadership and accountability for nominated issues of strategic importance to bulk power system reliability.

Top Priorities for SCCG Discussion: Mitigations listed in the report should be assigned to committees that can address the items.

What information/guidance/support is needed from another committee?

- RSTC- Strategic Planning in October should map mitigations to work plans
- SC/RSDP- Standards prioritization must be considered
- CCC- New risks should be considered if they have never been presented before.

Recent Risk Identification, Mitigation, Monitoring Activity

- RISC report is being presented to the Board in August

Upcoming Risk Identification, Mitigation, Monitoring Activity

- RISC will collaborate with RSTC, SC, CCC, and any other committee that owns a mitigation
- WorkFront has been identified as the software solution to update the Risk Registry

Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC)

Chair: Rich Hydzik Vice-Chair: John Stephens

Purpose: The RSTC strives to advance the reliability and security of the BPS by creating a forum for ideas and interests to support the ERO's mission, and leveraging such expertise to identify solutions to study, mitigate, and/or eliminate emerging risks.

Top Priorities for SCCG Discussion:

- Continue to monitor progress on RSTC work plan
- Prioritize SARs with SC and SCCG input
- Incorporate metrics into Reliability Guidelines

What information/guidance/support is needed from another committee?

- **All Committees** - request input on Risk Framework feedback loops
- **SC** – Prioritization of SARs, technical review protocol of SARs developed outside of RSTC groups

Recent Risk Identification, Mitigation, Monitoring Activity

- Approved: *SPIDERWG Scope Document; Reliability Guideline: BPS Perspectives on the Adoption of 1547-2018; SCWG Security Guidelines: 1)Provenance 2)Vendor Risk Management; Reliability Guidelines: Cyber Intrusion Guide for System Operators; Reliability Guideline: Gas and Electrical Operational Coordination Considerations; BCSI in the Cloud Tabletop Exercise (Technical Reference); FERC Lessons Learned paper; Electromagnetic Transient Modeling (EMT) Task Force Scope; Reliability Guideline: EMT Modeling; Endorsed two SARs from the SPIDERWG*

Upcoming Risk Identification, Mitigation, Monitoring Activity

- Reliability/Security Guidelines (including effectiveness metrics) will be presented in September for approval.
- RSTC Strategic Plan and Work Plan: identified high priority work plan items will continue to be the focus of the RSTC to address RSTC Strategic Plan Risk Priorities. Summit is planned for October 10-11, 2023.

Standards Committee (SC)

Chair: Amy Casuscelli Vice-Chair: Todd Bennett

Purpose: The SC oversees the development of NERC Reliability Standards as its members review actions to ensure the standards development process is being followed.

Top Priorities for SCCG Discussion:

- Standards Process Improvements, recommendations for SCCG, RSTC and SC.
- SC will partner with NERC Staff and consult with the SCCG to effectively prioritize standards development projects based on reliability risk.

What information/guidance/support is needed from another committee?

- CCC – Continue to participate and support the joint task force to evaluate the existing Standards Grading process, identify opportunities, and provide recommendations for improvement.
- PCGC – N/A
- RISC – Risk Framework: determination of risk remediation feedback to the SC and RSTC. The SC will look for opportunities to feed risk determination into prioritization of development projects.
- RSTC – Increased awareness of SAR development process through standing agenda item on SC agenda. Awareness and status of SARs being worked at subcommittee level.

Recent Risk Identification, Mitigation, Monitoring Activity

- CIP-014 SAR accepted and posted for formal comment
- MOD-031 SAR accepted and posted for comment
- TPL-001 SAR accepted and posted for informal comment
- CIP-008 SAR accepted and posted for formal comment
- EMT Modeling SAR accepted and posted for informal comment
- BAL-003 ACE Diversity Interchange revision ballot

Upcoming Risk Identification, Mitigation, Monitoring Activity

- EOP-004 IBR Event Reporting posting
- BAL-003 ACE Diversity Interchange revision posting
- PRC-002-4 posting
- FAC-008 posting
- Internal Network Security Monitoring posting