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December 2012

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Headlines

NERC's Response to FERC Approval of Bulk Electric System Definition

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is pleased with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) action on the Bulk Electric System Definition (on December 20), and looks forward to reviewing the final order. As noted by FERC, this complex issue was completed in two years and demonstrates cooperation and coordination between NERC, FERC and the industry. NERC remains committed to developing effective standards in a timely manner to ensure the reliability of the bulk power system. [\[FERC release\]](#)[\[LaFleur statement\]](#)



Canada

NEB Issues General Order on Standards

The National Energy Board of Canada issues a General Order for Electricity Reliability Standards on December 6 that gives all nine Canadian jurisdictions authority to make reliability standards mandatory and enforceable. This completes a process begun in 2002, with Ontario becoming the first jurisdiction to adopt NERC standards as mandatory.

While the provincial structures vary considerably, the significant objective of having a framework of common, mandatory reliability standards has now been achieved between the United States and Canada.

Also significant was a meeting hosted by the Ontario Independent System Operator in October. The meeting was the first of Canadian jurisdictional authorities exercising compliance and enforcement duties. Established as a subgroup of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Electricity Working Group, its inaugural session included training provided by NERC on the conduct of investigations. ■■■

Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis



NERC Educates Japanese Contingent on ERO Structure, Activities

A group of Japanese power engineers visited NERC's headquarters in Atlanta on December 18 as part of a Power Systems and Energy Course (PSEC) sponsored by GE Energy.

The group visited NERC in an effort to learn about the reliability of the North American power system and about NERC's history. The group's goal is to advance the deregulation of Japan's power system and to possibly create an electric reliability organization in their country.

Participants represented different companies from the Japanese power system. RAPA Vice President and Director Herb Schrayshuen greeted the guests and gave an overview of NERC and its Standards process, while John Moura, associate director of Reliability Assessment, gave a presentation on the reliability and accountability of NERC.

There was much discussion between participants, with the meeting concluding with a tour of NERC's situation awareness room. ■■■

Standards

Board of Trustees Adopts Standards Development Plan, Other Items

NERC's Board of Trustees approved the [Reliability Standards Development Plan 2013-2015](#) on December 19. Developed by NERC staff in conjunction with members of the Standards Committee, the plan represents a revision of NERC's approach to managing the standards development workload. The plan establishes the goal of transitioning the current body of standards to a set of clear, concise standards that ensure the reliability of the bulk power system, while bringing NERC up-to-date on its obligations to address regulatory directives and conduct five-year reviews of standards. Meeting the objectives of the plan requires a disciplined project management approach and review of current processes, including streamlining the standards development process, equipping standards drafting teams, and developing project management plans.

The Board also adopted [BAL-001-1: Real Power Balancing Control Performance](#) (a WECC Regional variance of BAL-001-0.1a), [BAL-004-WECC-02: Automatic Time Error Control](#), and [proposed revisions to a set of outstanding VRFs and VSLs](#).

The Board directed NERC to file the plan, the BAL standards, and the revised VRFs and VSLs with applicable regulatory authorities.

FERC Approves Revised Definition of Bulk Electric System

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved a revised definition of Bulk Electric System (BES) through an [order](#) on December 20, along with associated revisions to NERC's Rules of Procedure, which create an exception process to add elements to or remove elements from the BES definition, an application form titled "Detailed Information to Support an Exception Request," and an implementation plan. The definition establishes a bright-line threshold that includes all facilities operated at or above 100kV and ensures consistency

across all Regions in distinguishing between BES and non-BES elements and facilities.

A second phase of the BES definition project was initiated to develop appropriate technical justification for refinements to the definition that were suggested by stakeholders during Phase I, and to refine the definition as technically justified. More information about Phase II is available on the [project page](#).

Standard Processes Manual Revisions Achieve Approval in Successive Ballot

A successive ballot for the Standard Processes Manual revisions proposed in order to implement Standards Process Input Group recommendations concluded on December 20. The latest revisions – which focused on refining changes with respect to Measures and Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets, the treatment of "no" votes during a final ballot, and the Section 16.0 waiver provision – earned 84 percent approval from the ballot body.

The Standards Committee Process subcommittee subteams will review all comments and determine which revisions are necessary to finalize the SPM. If no significant changes are made, the manual will be posted for a recirculation ballot and, if approved by the stakeholder body, presented to the NERC Board for approval. Additional documentation is available on the [project page](#).

Order 754 Upcoming Events

NERC is launching a new application to support the Order 754 data request. Transmission Planners who submit data in response to the data request have an opportunity to register in January 2013. In February 2013, registered Transmission Planners will have the ability to access the new application to submit data for the collection periods. Watch for webinar dates and times in January to learn more about the registration and data entry process.

The data request was developed in accordance with the [NERC Rules of Procedure](#), Section 1600 — Request for Data or Information and was approved by the NERC Board on August 16, and is available on the

[Order 754 project page](#). Transmission Planners are encouraged to periodically check the project page for information and for appropriate data submittal links, when made available. Entities with questions may contact NERC at DataRequest754@nerc.net.

Role of Technical Committees in Transforming Reliability Standards

NERC's Operating, Planning, and Critical Infrastructure Protection Committees and their respective subcommittees and working groups have traditionally provided NERC with valuable technical and hands-on expertise. NERC appreciates all the time spent by committee members and participants in supporting Reliability Standards activities in 2012.

The successful implementation of NERC's *Reliability Standard Development Plan 2013-2015* depends on the continued hard work of committee participants. While NERC's approach to implementation of the plan calls for significant engagement of these industry-based technical committees, this engagement is not new; historically, the engagement of the committees has been central to NERC's mission and contributed to the documents that provided the foundation for today's reliability standards.

It is vital for NERC's standard development process to be rooted in industry expertise and practical technical experiences. The industry technical brain trust for planning, operations, and critical infrastructure protection is embodied in the leaders that participate in NERC's technical committees. Increased engagement between the Standards Committee and these other important technical committees will ensure that reliability standards are technically sound, while building industry consensus as NERC accelerates the transformation of the current standards to a body of world-class standards that ensures the reliability of the bulk power system.

Save the Dates: NERC's 2013 Standards and Compliance Workshops

NERC will host two Reliability Standards and Compliance Workshops this year: March 19-21 in St. Louis and September 24-26 in Atlanta. Both will offer

a remote option for stakeholders unable to attend in person. Additional information about the March workshop will be issued in January.

Three New Standards Developers Join NERC

In the October 2012 issue of NERC News, NERC announced the restructuring of the Standards Department to form three teams of standard developers focused on transforming to a world-class, results-based standards body of standards that ensure the reliability of the bulk power system. Since October, NERC's Standards department has added three new standards developers to support these teams:

Mark Olson joined NERC in October. Mark recently concluded a career as an officer in the U.S. Navy, where he served in various positions related to the operations and management of surface ships and naval personnel. He has a master's degree in electrical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy.

Erika Chanzas joined NERC in November. Previously, she worked as a quality assurance specialist for Carley Corporation, a company specializing in the development of training solutions for the Department of Defense. Erika has a bachelor's degree in English and writing from Rollins College.

Soo Jin Kim joined NERC in December. Prior to joining NERC, Soo Jin was an associate at Troutman Sanders LLP in Washington, DC, in their Federal Regulation of Electricity and Gas Practice group. Soo Jin has a bachelor's degree in economics and English from the University of Georgia and J.D. from American University.

Standard Drafting Team Vacancies

Any industry stakeholder meeting the indicated qualifications for the following vacant appointment may submit a self-nomination form to sarcomm@nerc.com. More instructions can be found on the [Drafting Team Vacancies page](#) on NERC's website.

Project 2007-06 System Protection Coordination

Seeking an individual from a Canadian entity who has experience in coordination of protection systems (new installations and revisions). ■■■

Filings

NERC Filings to FERC

(click on the link for full filing)

December 11, 2012

[Reply Comments of NERC in response to NOPR on Regional Reliability Standard PRC-006-NPCC-1](#)

NERC provides reply comments in response to the comments submitted on November 26, 2012, on FERC's September 20, 2012, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NOPR") regarding the proposed regional Reliability Standard PRC- 006-NPCC-1 (Automatic Underfrequency Load Shedding). *Docket No. RM12-12-000*

December 21, 2012

[Comments of NERC in response to NOPR on Transmission Vegetation Management Standard FAC-003-2](#)

NERC submits comments in response to the October 18, 2012 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to approve Reliability Standard FAC-003-2. *Docket No. RM12-4-000*

December 31, 2012

[Petition for Approval of Proposed Reliability Standard EOP-004-2 - Event Reporting](#)

NERC submits a petition for approval of standard EOP-004-2 - Event Reporting. The proposed Reliability Standard provides a comprehensive approach to reporting disturbances and events that have the potential to impact the reliability of the Bulk Electric System in accordance with several Commission directives. *Docket No. RD13--000*

[Informational Filing of NERC of Reliability Standards Development Plan 2013-2015](#)

NERC submits the Reliability Standards Development Plan: 2013-2015 (RSDP). The RSDP will: 1. Serve as a management tool to guide and coordinate the development of Reliability Standards and provide benchmarks for assessing progress; 2. Serve as a communications tool for coordinating standards development work with applicable governmental agencies in the United States and Canada and for engaging stakeholders in Reliability Standards development activities; and 3. Provide a basis for developing annual plans and budgets for the NERC Reliability Standards program. *Docket Nos. RM05-17-000, RM05-25-000, RM06-16-000*

NERC Filings in Canada, click [here](#)

(click on the link above for full filing)

There were no Canadian filings this month. ■■■

Careers at NERC

Meeting Planner Specialist

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Bulk Power System Awareness Engineer

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Compliance Enforcement Coordinator

Location: Washington, DC

[Details](#)

Senior Compliance Operations Auditor

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

ES-ISAC Cybersecurity Specialist

Location: Washington, DC

[Details](#)

CIP Security Specialist

Location: Washington, DC

[Details](#)

CIP Compliance Auditor

Location: Washington, DC

[Details](#)

CIP Compliance Auditor

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Senior Reliability Engineer (Relay)

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Senior Web Developer

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Engineer of Reliability Risk Controls

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Senior Performance and Analysis Engineer

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Senior System Analysis and Performance Engineer

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Standards Developer

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Administrative Assistant-Reliability Risk Management

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#)

Continuing Education Program Coordinator

Location: Atlanta

[Details](#) ■ ■ ■