

Modernization of Standards Processes and Procedures Task Force (MSPPTF)

Scope Document
April 2025

Purpose

The speed at which risks to the reliability, security, and resilience of the bulk power system are emerging during the transformation to a decentralized, digitized, and decarbonized grid is outpacing industry's ability to develop, enhance, and implement Reliability Standards under the existing processes and procedures. The purpose of the MSPPTF is to develop recommendations to transform and modernize the current processes and procedures for standards development. The recommendations will aim to ensure that Reliability Standards development – from risk identification and prioritization to implementation – can be completed more effectively and efficiently to meet the speed at which risks to the bulk power system are emerging. All recommended changes to the processes and procedures must continue to provide for reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment, due process, openness, and balance of interests in developing reliability standards consistent with Section 215 of the Federal Power Act

Activities

The scope of the MSPPTF will be all encompassing and wide-ranging and may consider the following:

- Define guiding principles on how the Task Force will conduct its efforts
- Define goals for the modernization of standards processes and procedures (e.g., standard development to be completed within 12 months of risk identification; ensure effective industry involvement; and prioritization)
- Review prior standard improvement efforts to understand lessons learned
- Compare against other standard setting organizations' processes and procedures, within and outside of the industry
- Conduct a detailed process mapping exercise to fully understand how the existing standards process works
- Identify potential opportunities to explore, including but not limited to, the following:
 - Drafting team selection and composition;
 - Role and effectiveness of the registered ballot body;
 - Use of technical conferences and other stakeholder engagement tools to drive to earlier identification of potential solutions to challenging standard terms; and
 - Development, review, and assessment of Standard Authorization Requests, including possible alternatives.

- Conduct an assessment of potential opportunities for modernizing the standards development processes and procedures
- For potential opportunities that are identified, evaluate the implementation impact of proposed changes to ensure that the end-to-end process from standards initiation to real time application, works well, is timely and efficient
- Develop preliminary recommendations and conduct stakeholder outreach to gain input and feedback
- After receiving input from stakeholders, develop final recommendations with specific actions needed for implementation

Membership

The MSPPTF will have an industry chair and vice chair and two NERC Trustees appointed by the Board. The remaining members will be selected by NERC management in consultation with the MSPPTF chair and vice chair. The MSPPTF consists of the following individuals, each of whom provide diversity of expertise, geography, and industry representation:

- Greg Ford (Chair), Georgia System Operations Corporation;
- Todd Lucas (Vice Chair), Southern Company;
- Todd Bennett (Standards Committee (SC) Chair), Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.;
- Rich Hydzik (Reliability and Security Technical Committee (RSTC) Chair), Avista Corporation;
- Scott Tomashefsky (Compliance and Certification Committee (CCC) Chair), Northern California Power Agency;
- Joe Fina, Snohomish County Public Utility District;
- Todd Hillman, MISO Energy;
- Matt Holtz, Invenergy;
- Brett Kruse, Calpine Corporation;
- Robert Reinmuller, Hydro One Networks Inc.;
- Sue Kelly, NERC Board of Trustees;
- Rob Manning, NERC Board of Trustees; and
- Kal Ayoub, FERC (non-voting member).

NERC executives will participate and provide guidance and NERC staff will be assigned as Coordinator(s).

The MSPPTF will determine if other stakeholder groups are needed to advance their efforts (i.e., advisory group or sub-groups).

The MSPPTF will be supported by a consultant that will facilitate information collection, process mapping, summarizing and synthesizing conclusions, and information for task force use.

Reporting & Duration

The MSPPTF will report to the NERC Board of Trustees. The MSPPTF will present its recommendations to the NERC Board in February 2026 and provide updates to the NERC Board on a regular basis until complete.

Meetings

The MSPPTF will have monthly virtual meetings and a minimum of three in-person workshops, supplemented with individual conference calls, to facilitate completion of work products. MSPPTF meetings will not be open to observers, but the Task Force will engage stakeholders as part of its scope and provide updates to industry through public announcements and updates at various open meetings including Board, Member Representatives Committee, CCC, RSTC, and SC meetings.