

Fast Facts

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Overview

NERC is an international, independent, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid.

Bulk Power System Oversight

NERC oversees reliability and security for a bulk power system that:

- Provides electricity to approximately 370 million people;
- Has 18,000 generating units;
- Has an installed generating capacity of more than 1.1 million megawatts;
- Produces more than 4.3 billion megawatt hours of actual energy;
- Has 264,000 circuit miles, or 424,867 circuit kilometers, of transmission greater than 200 kilovolts; and
- Interconnects nearly 470,000 circuit miles, or 756,392 circuit kilometers, of transmission greater than 100 kilovolts.

Brief History

NERC was founded in 1968 by the electric utility industry to develop and promote rules and protocols for the reliable operation of North America's bulk power system. In 2006, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission designated NERC as the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) under Federal Power Act Section 215 and charged NERC with developing and enforcing mandatory Reliability Standards, assessing current and future reliability trends, analyzing system events, and recommending improved practices.

Principal Activities

As the ERO, NERC:

- Works with industry to develop Reliability Standards.
- Monitors and enforces compliance with Reliability Standards.
- Assesses monetary and non-monetary penalties for noncompliance.
- Evaluates the performance and future reliability of the bulk power system through a comprehensive set of annual assessments.
- Develops special assessments on emerging reliability and security issues as needed.
- Analyzes bulk power system events for lessons learned.
- Helps industry train and educate system operators.
- Certifies system operators.
- Promotes human performance improvement.
- Collects and analyzes information on potential cyber and physical security threats.
- Shares actionable grid security intelligence and threat indicators with bulk power system asset owners and operators across North America.