

Media Release

Resource Mix Changes Require Improved Coordination; Distributed Resources, Storage among Challenges

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ATLANTA – Adequate capacity resources are projected to meet increasing peak demand over the next 10 years, NERC finds in its recent long-term assessment. The addition of large amounts of utility-scale wind, solar and natural gas generation combined with a major influx of energy storage technology requires continued enhancements to system planning and operations.

More than 330 GW of solar and wind capacity are planned for installation through 2029, according to the [2019 Long-Term Reliability Assessment](#). Meanwhile, the rate of transmission infrastructure development needed to support these variable resources and system expansion has declined from nearly 40,000 circuit miles earlier this decade to less than 15,000 circuit miles over the next ten years, the assessment finds.

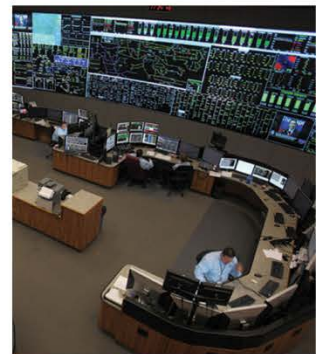
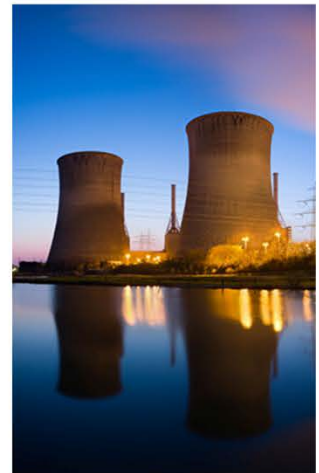
“The amount of variable, inverter-based and electricity storage resources identified in this year’s report serves as an early indicator of a transforming bulk power system,” said John Moura, director of Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis. “As we navigate the complex and technical challenges facing the industry, the ERO Enterprise is committed to enhancing our reliability assessments, strengthening our guidance to industry and calibrating requirements that preserve bulk power system reliability.”

As a key element of the transformation, the assessment finds that approximately 35 GW of distributed solar photovoltaic and 8 GW of utility-scale electricity storage are expected by 2024. While reserve margins are at or above recommended levels in all areas of North America over the 10-year outlook, Texas and Ontario both project some increased risk when compared to the reference margin level.

The assessment’s recommendations include specific actions that the ERO Enterprise and industry should take to ensure risks are efficiently and effectively addressed. These actions include increasing coordination with policymakers, ensuring accurate

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system models, assessing the reliability impacts of electric storage and identifying key resilience metrics.

This assessment was developed from data and narrative information collected by NERC from the six Regional Entities on an assessment area basis to independently assess the long-term reliability of the North American bulk power system while identifying trends, emerging issues and potential risks during the 10-year assessment period. NERC's independent reliability assessments are designed for industry and policymakers to inform bulk power system planning, operations, performance and oversight.

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Electricity is a key component of the fabric of modern society and the Electric Reliability Organization Enterprise serves to strengthen that fabric. The vision for the ERO Enterprise, which is comprised of NERC and the six Regional Entities, is a highly reliable and secure North American bulk power system. Our mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid.