

## Technical Conference – Discussion Summary

### Order 754

October 24-25, 2011

A technical discussion concerning the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's [Order 754](#)<sup>1</sup> (Single Point of Failure) was held on October 24-25, 2011 in Washington, DC. Attendees representing FERC, NERC, and industry experts on system protection and planning focused on the Order's concern with protection system failures. Discussions included voluntary standards from 1997, standards currently in effect, stakeholder practices, and some regional criteria. The June 14, 2004 Westwing Outage, in particular, was discussed at length and is one of three significant events referenced in an NERC Advisory to industry (issued on March 30, 2009) that concerns protection system single point of failure. So far, NERC has identified five events which involved single point of failure.

The technical discussion fulfilled the initial directives from Order 754, and it concluded with consensus among participants that there is a reliability concern involving single point of failure that requires further study. Ultimately, the issue may involve transmission planning standards TPL-001 through TPL-004, which specify Bulk Electric System performance for certain system protection failures. It was clear from the discussion and subsequent consensus that system performance requirements are achieved jointly through collaboration between planning and protection engineers.

Before concluding, the group attending the technical discussion formulated a problem statement with several action items for further development in a joint meeting of the NERC System Protection and Control Subcommittee and the Transmission Issues Subcommittee scheduled for December 6-8, 2011 in Fort Worth, Texas. Additionally, a NERC [project page](#)<sup>2</sup> (Order 754) and distribution list has been created to keep industry abreast of activities relevant to this issue. With insight from the technical discussion informing Order 754-related initiatives underway, a successful outcome should be achieved that will complement standards currently filed for approval and ultimately enhance reliability.

The most significant next step is the preparation of a data request to the industry in accordance with the NERC Rules of Procedure, Section 1600. For inclusion on email notices regarding further activity on Order 754, contact Scott Barfield by [email](#) or by phone at 404-446-9689.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/comm-meet/2011/091511/E-4.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/order\\_754.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/order_754.html)