



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Standards Announcement Successive Ballot Window Opens Abbreviated Comment Period Opens December 1-10, 2010

Now available at: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

### **Ballot Window December 1-10, 2010**

A successive ballot will be conducted from 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 through 8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 10, 2010. During the successive ballot window, members of the ballot pool associated with this project may log in and submit their votes from the following page:

<https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

With a successive ballot, votes are **not** carried forward from the previous ballot. The Standards Committee encourages all members of the ballot pool to review the consideration of comments for the previous ballot and comment period and the modifications that team made to the standards and associated implementation plans.

### **Abbreviated Formal Comment Period Comment December 1-10, 2010**

An abbreviated formal comment period will be open from December 1-10, 2010. The Standards Committee authorized the abbreviated comment period to support providing stakeholders with the opportunity to provide comment while also supporting the goal of completing this set of revisions before the end of December, 2010. Please use this [electronic form](#) to submit comments. If you experience any difficulties in using the electronic form, please contact Monica Benson at [monica.benson@nerc.net](mailto:monica.benson@nerc.net). An off-line, unofficial copy of the comment form is posted on the project page:

[http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project\\_2008-06\\_Cyber\\_Security\\_PhaseII\\_Standards.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project_2008-06_Cyber_Security_PhaseII_Standards.html)

### **Project 2008-06 — Cyber Security 706**

The drafting team working on “Version 4 CIP Standards” has posted its consideration of the comments submitted during the formal comment period and initial ballot that ended on November 3, 2010. Based on those comments, the drafting team modified CIP-002-4, the implementation plans, and the associated guidance document. Most revisions focused on ‘fine tuning’ the bright line criteria proposed for use in identifying critical assets. The proposed CIP-002-4 provides a significant improvement to CIP-002-3 by including a specific list of criteria for entities to use in identifying their critical assets.

Recognizing that protecting the cyber assets critical to the electric utility’s infrastructure is also critical to national and international security, the revisions to CIP-002 are being advanced ahead of other improvements to the remaining set of CIP standards. The remaining CIP standards all rely on a complete and accurate identification of those assets that are critical to reliability. Because entities are so tightly interconnected, a vulnerability that seems insignificant to a single entity can place the entire grid in a state of vulnerability.

Each of the CIP standards (CIP-003-3 through CIP-009-3) contains at least one reference to CIP-002-3. To maintain clarity, CIP-003-3 through CIP-009-3 have had conforming changes made, so that all cross references within the set of standards are to “CIP Version 4” standards. (*CIP-005-4 - Cyber Security — Electronic Security Perimeter is posted separately, with a set of proposed revisions for expedited processing under Project 2010-15. If CIP-005-4 is not approved under Project 2010-15, it will be returned to this set of CIP standards.*)

## Next Steps

Voting results will be posted and announced after the ballot window closes.

## Project Background

FERC Order 706 directed NERC to develop modifications to the CIP Reliability Standards. Due to the variety of changes directed in Order 706 and the complexity of the project, the drafting team adopted a multi-phase revision strategy. The initial phase involved modifying standards CIP-002-1 through CIP-009-1 to comply with the near-term directives included in Order 706. The resulting version 2 CIP standards were approved by the NERC Board of Trustees, and as part of its approval Order, FERC directed NERC to make changes to two standards and the associated implementation plan within 90 days. Those changes, along with necessary conforming cross-reference changes for the remaining six CIP standards, resulted in the version 3 CIP standards. The current phase (Phase II) involves the more complex FERC directives.

Further details are available on the project page:

[http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project\\_2008-06\\_Cyber\\_Security\\_PhaseII\\_Standards.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Project_2008-06_Cyber_Security_PhaseII_Standards.html)

## Applicability of Standards in Project

Reliability Coordinator  
Balancing Authority  
Interchange Authority  
Transmission Service Provider  
Transmission Owner  
Transmission Operator  
Generator Owner  
Generator Operator  
Load-Serving Entity  
NERC  
Regional Entity

*For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson,  
Standards Process Administrator, at [monica.benson@nerc.net](mailto:monica.benson@nerc.net) or at 609.452.8060.*

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