

## Standards Announcement

### Project 2007-02 – Operating Personnel Communications Protocols

Initial Ballot and Non-Binding Poll Open Through 8 p.m. Wednesday,  
June 20, 2012

#### [Now Available](#)

An initial ballot of COM-003-1 – Operating Personnel Communications and Protocols and a non-binding poll of the associated VRFs/VSLs is open through **8 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, June 20, 2012.**

#### Instructions

Members of the ballot pools associated with this project may log in and submit their vote for the Standard and opinion in the non-binding poll of the associated VRFs and VSLs by clicking [here](#).

Due to modifications to NERC's balloting software, voters will no longer be able to submit comments via the balloting software

#### Next Steps

The drafting team will consider all comments received during the formal comment period and initial ballot and determine whether to make changes to the standard and associated documents. After the standards and associated documents are revised, the drafting team will submit its work for quality review prior to the next posting.

#### Background

There are two projects that have the modification of the COM family of standards in the scope of their SAR. This project, Project 2007-02 – Operating Personnel Communications Protocols, is concerned with communication protocols for normal and emergency operations. The other project, Project 2006-06 – Reliability Coordination has limited the scope of its modifications to the COM family of standards to those that address communication during emergency operations. The Project 2006-06 team has proposed a new term, "Reliability Directive," to specifically address those communications. The proposed definition of Reliability Directive is "A communication initiated by a Reliability Coordinator, Transmission Operator or Balancing Authority where action by the recipient is necessary to address an Emergency or Adverse Reliability Impact." The Project 2006-06 drafting team is proposing to require three-part communication for Reliability Directives, with a VRF of High for those requirements.

Since Project 2007-02 – Operating Personnel Communications Protocols must address communication protocols for both normal and emergency operations, the Project 2007-02 drafting team is proposing a new term, "Operating Communication." The proposed definition for Operating Communication is

“Communication of instruction to change or maintain the state, status, output, or input of an Element or Facility of the Bulk Electric System.” Given that Reliability Directives are a subset of Operating Communications, and to avoid any possibility of double jeopardy, the Project 2007-02 SDT is proposing to require three-part communication for all Operating Communications other than Reliability Directives, and has proposed a Medium VRF for these requirements. Having a High VRF for a violation of three-part communication involving a Reliability Directive and having a Medium VRF for a violation of three-part communication involving other Operating Communications supports the appropriate differentiation of risk for normal and emergency communications.

Additional information is available on the [project webpage](#).

### **Standards Development Process**

The [Standard Processes Manual](#) contains all the procedures governing the standards development process. The success of the NERC standards development process depends on stakeholder participation. We extend our thanks to all those who participate.

*For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson,  
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