

Standards Announcement

Project 2007-02 – Operating Personnel Communications Protocols

Successive Ballot and Non-Binding Poll Open Through 8 p.m.
Thursday, September 20, 2012

[Now Available](#)

A successive 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 Thursday, September 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](#).

Please read carefully: All stakeholders with comments (both members of the ballot pool, as well as other stakeholders; including groups such as trade associations and committees) must submit comments through the [electronic comment form](#). During the ballot window, balloters who wish to submit comments with their ballot *may no longer enter comments on the balloting screen*, but may still enter comments through the electronic comment form. **Balloters who wish to express support for comments submitted by another entity or group will have an opportunity to enter that information and are not required to answer any other questions.**

Next Steps

The drafting team plans anticipates posting COM-003 for a recirculation ballot in October 2012.

Background

The purpose of this project is to require that real-time system operators use standardized communication protocols during normal and emergency operations to enhance the clarity of communications, improve situational awareness, shorten response time and ultimately serve reliability. As requested in the SAR, in the development of this proposed standard, the drafting team reviewed communication protocols in other NERC standards and considered the use of alert level guidelines and three-part communications to achieve consistency across regions. The proposed standard is designed to ensure that reliability-related information is conveyed effectively, accurately, consistently and in a timely manner to ensure mutual understanding by all key parties, both during alerts and emergencies and during the communication of routine operating instructions.

There are two projects that include 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, is concerned with ensuring that the reliability-related requirements applicable to the Reliability Coordinator are clear, measurable, unique, enforceable, and sufficient to maintain reliability of the Bulk Electric System.

The Project 2006-06 Reliability Coordination drafting team (RC SDT) has limited the scope of its modifications to those that address communication during emergency operations. The RC SDT has developed a new term, “Reliability Directive,” to specifically address those communications, and this term has been approved by the ballot pool. 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 RC SDT is proposing to require three-part communication for Reliability Directives, with a High Violation Risk Factor for those requirements.

Since Project 2007-02 – Operating Personnel Communications Protocols addresses communication protocols for normal *and* emergency operations, the drafting team has proposed a new term, “Operating Instruction,” to define the scope of communications to which the COM-003-1 protocols would apply. The proposed definition of Operating Instruction is “Command from a System Operator to change or preserve the state, status, output or input of an Element of the Bulk Electric System or Facility of the Bulk Electric System.”

The two standards complement each other. COM-003 establishes the practice of using communication protocols for all Operating Instructions, and provides for an entity to identify, assess and correct any deficiencies with that practice. COM-002 is focused on communications during emergency situations.

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

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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