

Standards Announcement

Project 2007-02 – Operating Personnel Communications Protocols

Ballot Pools Forming: May 7 – June 5, 2012

Formal Comment Period Open: May 7 – June 20, 2012

Ballot Windows Open for Initial Ballot and Non-Binding Poll:
June 11 – June 20, 2012

[Now Available](#)

A clean version COM-003-1 – Operating Personnel Communications Protocols has been posted for a 45-day formal comment period, initial ballot and non-binding poll. The drafting team has also posted its implementation plan, mapping document, justification for Violation Risk Factors (VRFs) and Violation Severity Levels (VSLs) and proposed changes to COM-001. The drafting team has not posted a redline of COM-003-1 because the changes to the last posted version of COM-003-1 are so extensive that a redline is not useful.

Instructions for Joining Ballot Pools

Registered Ballot Body members must join the ballot pools to be eligible to vote in the upcoming ballot of Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Communications Protocols by clicking [here](#) for the Initial ballot and the non-binding poll of the associated Violation Risk Factors and Violation Severity Levels.

During the pre-ballot windows, members of the ballot pools may communicate with one another by using their “ballot pool list servers.” (Once the balloting begins, ballot pool members are prohibited from using the ballot pool list servers.) The list servers for the ballot pools are:

Initial ballot: bp-2007-02_COM-003-1_in@nerc.com

Non-binding poll: bp-2007-02_COM-003-1_NB_in@nerc.com

The ballot pools are open **through 8 a.m. Eastern on Tuesday, June 5, 2012.**

Instructions for Commenting

A formal comment period is open through **8 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, June 20, 2012.** Please use this [electronic comment form](#) to submit comments. If you experience any difficulties in using the electronic form, please contact Monica Benson at monica.benson@nerc.net. An off-line, unofficial copy of the comment form is posted on the [project page](#).

Commenters and voters must submit comments through the [electronic comment form](#). Due to modifications to NERC's balloting software, voters are no longer able to submit comments via the balloting software.

Next Steps

The drafting team will consider all comments received during the formal comment period and, if needed, make revisions to the standard. If the comments do not show the need for significant revisions, the standard will proceed to a recirculation ballot.

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 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.

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 at monica.benson@nerc.net.

*For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson,
Standards Process Administrator, at monica.benson@nerc.net or at 404-446-2560.*

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