

Proposed Waiver on COM-002 and COM-003 Reliability Standards

Action

Approve a waiver to shorten ballot and comment periods during development of a combined COM-002 and COM-003 standard.

Background

To prepare for potential direction from the Board of Trustees (“Board”) regarding COM-003-1, the SC took two actions at its meeting on September 19, 2013 enabling the development of a revised COM-003-1 standard on an expedited timeline. On September 30, 2013, the Board’s Standards Oversight and Technology Committee (“SOTC”) held a closed conference call to deliberate on the inputs to the Board’s questions received on the draft COM-003-1 Reliability Standard from the Independent Expert Review Panel, Reliability Issues Steering Committee, NERC Management and the Operating Committee. The SOTC approved a recommendation to the Board directing the SC to work with the relevant standard drafting team (SDT) (i.e. the Operating Personnel Communications Protocols (OPCP) SDT) to develop a combined COM-002 and COM-003 standard (the “combined standard”) that includes essential elements included in the SOTC’s resolution.

Prior to Board action, the SOTC further agreed to direct the SC and NERC management to provide an update to the SOTC at the November 6, 2013 SOTC meeting on the status of the development of the draft combined standard and the RSAW. The November 2013 Policy Input to NERC Board of Trustees is attached. Based on the action of the SOTC, the SC is requested to approve a new waiver that will supersede the SC’s September 19, 2013 waiver on COM-003 that will allow the OPCS SDT to approve development of a revised standard on a shortened timeline and will enable the SDT to develop a draft combined standard with the input and direction from the SOTC. The SC is also requested to approve a shorter time period for the initial posting to develop, post, and ballot the draft combined standard before the November 7, 2013 Board meeting. The proposed waiver on a combined COM-002/COM-003 standard is included below:

If, prior to or at its November 7, 2013 meeting, the Board or the Standards Oversight and Technology Committee requests or directs the COM-003-1 standard drafting team to post for comment and ballot a proposed COM-002 and COM-003 standard (the “combined standard”), the Standards Committee approves the following waiver:

- a. Direct the COM-003-1 standard drafting team to develop a combined standard and post the revised combined standard for a 15-calendar day comment and concurrent 10-calendar day ballot period.
- b. If the revised combined standard passes, the COM-003-1 standard drafting team is directed to post the revised combined standard for a 5-calendar day final ballot period.

- c. If the revised combined standard does not pass, the standard drafting team is directed not to post the revised combined standard for final ballot.

As required in Section 16.0 of the Standard Processes Manual, NERC provided stakeholders with notice of this waiver request on October 1, 2013. If the waiver is authorized, NERC staff will post notice of the waiver on the project page and notify the NERC Board of Trustees Standards Oversight and Technology Committee.