

## Standards Announcement

### Ballot Pools and Pre-ballot Windows (with Comment Periods) Project 2007-17: Protection System Maintenance and Testing

#### **Project 2007-17: Protection System Maintenance and Testing**

On March 18, 2010, FERC issued several orders and notices of proposed rulemakings pertaining to standards development activities and processes, suggesting a lack of progress in responding to directives from Order 693 as well in the timeliness of standards development in general. At the May 2010 NERC Board meeting, Gerry Cauley, NERC's President, also expressed these concerns, indicating that the resolution to these concerns is one of NERC's top priorities in the near term. As a result, the Standards Committee has authorized deviations from the normal standards development process for the Protection System Maintenance and Testing project, as well as other projects that have been through significant stakeholder review through the development process, to demonstrate that the NERC enterprise is responsive to FERC directives, and is making progress in developing new standards.

The Standards Committee approved the following deviations from the standards development process:

- The proposed changes to the standard and definition will be posted for 35-day comment periods (rather than 45-day comment periods). The ballot pools will be formed during the first 21 days of the 35-day comment periods;
- The initial ballots will be conducted during the last 10 days of the 35-day comment periods; and
- The drafting team may make modifications between the initial and recirculation ballots based on stakeholder comments to improve the overall quality of the standard and definition.

#### **Ballot Pools (through July 2, 2010)**

- There will be two ballot pools: one for the standard (PRC-005-2), which includes the proposed definition of "Protection System Maintenance Program" and a separate ballot pool for the proposed definition of "Protection System."

- Registered Ballot Body members may join the ballot pools **until 8 a.m. Eastern on July 2, 2010** to be eligible to vote in the upcoming ballots at the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/BallotPool.aspx>. Members who join the ballot pool to vote on the standard (PRC-005-2) will automatically be entered in a separate pool to participate in the non-binding poll of the associated violation risk factors (VRFs) and violation severity levels (VSLs). (As a reminder, this new approach for VRFs and VSLs is one of the updates reflected in the recently FERC-approved Reliability Standards Development Procedure – Version 7.)
- During the pre-ballot window, members of the ballot pools may communicate with one another by using their “ballot pool list server.” (Once the balloting begins, ballot pool members are prohibited from using the ballot pool list servers.) The ballot pool list server for PRC-005-2 and “Protection System Maintenance Program” is: [bp-2007-17\\_PRC-005-2\\_in@nerc.com](mailto:bp-2007-17_PRC-005-2_in@nerc.com). The ballot pool list server for the proposed definition of “Protection System” is: [bp-2007-17\\_definition\\_in@nerc.com](mailto:bp-2007-17_definition_in@nerc.com).

### **Comment Periods (through July 16, 2010)**

There will also be two comment periods: one for the standard (PRC-005-2), which includes the proposed definition of “Protection System Maintenance Program” and a separate comment period for the proposed definition of “Protection System.”

Please use this [electronic form](#) to submit comments on PRC-005-2 and “Protection System Maintenance Program.” Please use this [electronic form](#) to submit comments on “Protection System.” If you experience any difficulties in using the electronic forms, please contact Lauren Koller at 609-524-7047.

Documents for this project — including an off-line, unofficial copy of the questions listed in the comment forms — are posted at the following site:

[http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Protection\\_System\\_Maintenance\\_Project\\_2007-17.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Protection_System_Maintenance_Project_2007-17.html)

### **Project Background**

The draft standard combines the following previous standards:

- PRC-005-1 — Transmission and Generation Protection System Maintenance and Testing
- PRC-008-0 — Underfrequency Load Shedding Equipment Maintenance Program
- PRC-011-0 — UVLS System Maintenance and Testing
- PRC-017-0 — Special Protection System Maintenance and Testing

The proposed standard addresses FERC directives from FERC Order 693 as well as issues identified by stakeholders. In accordance with the FERC directives, this draft standard establishes requirements for a time-based maintenance program, where all relevant devices are maintained according to prescribed maximum intervals. It further establishes requirements for a condition-based maintenance program, where the hands-on maintenance intervals are adjusted to reflect the known and reported condition of the relevant devices, and for a performance-based maintenance program, where the hands-on maintenance intervals are adjusted to reflect the historical performance of the relevant devices.

Further details are available on the project page:

[http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Protection\\_System\\_Maintenance\\_Project\\_2007-17.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Protection_System_Maintenance_Project_2007-17.html)



## **Applicability of Standards in Project:**

Transmission Owners  
Generator Owners  
Distribution Providers

## **Standards Development Process**

The [\*Reliability Standards Development Procedure\*](#) 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 Courtney Camburn at [Courtney.Camburn@nerc.net](mailto:Courtney.Camburn@nerc.net)*