

## **Standard Processes Manual Waiver Request Project 2019-06 Cold Weather**

### **Action**

Approve waiver of Section 4.12 of the Standard Processes Manual (SPM) for Project 2019-06 Cold Weather, to reduce the length of the additional formal comment and ballot period(s) from 45 days to as few as 25 days, with ballot(s) conducted during the last 10 days of the comment period.

### **Background**

Project 2019-06 Cold Weather was initiated to address recommendation one from the FERC and NERC staff report titled *The South Central United States Cold Weather Bulk Electronic System Event of January 17, 2018*. This project seeks to revise three Reliability Standards to address cold weather preparedness and situational awareness consistent with the staff report recommendation.

The draft Cold Weather Reliability Standards were posted for formal comment and initial ballot from January 27, 2021 through March 13, 2021. The results of the initial ballot are noted below:

- EOP-011-2: 49.39% approval / 89.71 % quorum (nonbinding poll: 45.45% supportive opinions)
- IRO-010-4: 66.22% approval / 89.49 % quorum (nonbinding poll: 63.68% supportive opinions)
- TOP-003-5: 64.35% approval / 89.91% quorum (nonbinding poll: 58.46% supportive opinions)

On March 22, 2021, the NERC Board of Trustees (Board) took action without a meeting to direct the completion of proposed Reliability Standards under Project 2019-06 Cold Weather by June 2021.

Section 16 of the [SPM](#) provides that the Standards Committee may waive any of the provisions contained in the SPM “for good cause shown,” including “where necessary to meet deadlines imposed by the Board.”

### **Summary**

The leadership of the Project 2019-06 Cold Weather Standards Drafting Team and NERC Standards staff request that the Standards Committee consider a waiver of Section 4.12 of the SPM in order to meet the June 2021 development deadline set by the Board.

The Requesters ask to shorten the next formal comment and ballot period(s) for draft standards EOP-011-2, IRO-010-4, and TOP-003-5, and any subsequent formal comment and ballot periods prior to final ballot for those standards, from 45 days to 25 days, with a ballot and non-binding poll during the last 10 days of the 25-day period.

The shortened comment period would allow for up to two additional comment and ballot periods to achieve consensus on the proposed standards while still meeting the Board's deadline. Should only one additional comment and ballot period prove necessary, the proposed standards would be submitted to the Board for adoption at its June 11, 2021 meeting.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Standard Processes Manual, notice of this waiver request was sent to stakeholders on March 22, 2021.

In accordance with Section 8.8 of the Standards Committee Charter, the Standards Committee is requested to act by action without a meeting by 1 pm PT, April 1, 2021.

Notice of this action, the results, and any approved waiver will be posted on the NERC website in accordance with the SPM and the Standards Committee Charter.