

Project 2013-03 Geomagnetic Disturbance (GMD) Mitigation

Action

Authorize a contingent waiver of the Standard Processes Manual (SPM) that shortens the final (recirculation) ballot period for the stage 1 standard, EOP-010-1– Geomagnetic Disturbance Operations, from 10 days to seven days to meet the FERC-directed filing schedule and NERC Board of Trustees (Board) meeting schedule, to be exercised only if 1) EOP-010-1 receives sufficient support during the current ballot to proceed to final (recirculation) ballot, and 2) the shortened time is necessary (as jointly determined by the NERC Standards Developer, PMOS Liaison and Chair of the SDT) to provide the drafting team adequate opportunity to fully consider stakeholder comments and prepare and review documents for posting for the final ballot.

Background

On May 16, 2013, FERC issued Order 779 directing NERC to develop and submit Reliability Standards addressing the potential impact of GMDs in two stages:

- Stage 1 Standard(s) that require applicable entities to develop and implement Operating Procedures. Stage 1 Standard(s) must be filed by January 21, 2014.
- Stage 2 Standard(s) that require applicable entities to conduct assessments of the potential impact of benchmark GMD events on their systems. If the assessments identify potential impacts, the Standard(s) will require the applicable entity to develop and implement a plan to mitigate the risk of instability, uncontrolled separation, or Cascading. Stage 2 Standards must be filed by January 21, 2015.

The initial draft of EOP-010-1 was posted for 45-day formal comment period and initial ballot through August 12, 2013, and received a weighted segment approval of 62.74%. A revised draft of EOP-010-1 was posted for 45-day formal comment and additional ballot on September 4, 2013. The ballot period ends on October 18, 2013. The drafting team is scheduled to meet October 23-24, 2013 to consider comments and revise the draft standard if necessary.

The NERC Board meeting on November 7, 2013 is the last scheduled board meeting prior to the FERC filing deadline for the stage 1 standard. Because of the high profile nature of Project 2013-03 (GMD Mitigation), the drafting team recognizes that it is particularly appropriate for the standard to be submitted to the NERC Board for adoption during the Board's quarterly meeting, if possible. This will ensure the standard is considered for adoption under NERC's normal open and transparent process without special arrangements for a NERC Board conference call.

The drafting team has maintained a rigorous development and communication effort in order to reach the November NERC Board meeting milestone. In order to complete a 10-day final ballot in time for the Board to adopt EOP-010-1 at that meeting, the team would need to post for the final ballot on Friday, October 25. If EOP-010-1 receives sufficient approval during the current ballot, a waiver of the SPM that would shorten the final ballot period from 10 days to seven days would provide a significant amount of additional time for the team to review the final set of documents prior to posting, by allowing them to post as late as October 30.

Agenda Item 8
Standards Committee
October 17, 2013

As required in Section 16.0 of the SPM, NERC provided stakeholders with notice of this waiver request on October 10, 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.