



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement

Ballot Pool and Pre-ballot Window

March 18–April 19, 2010

Now available at: <https://standards.nerc.net/BallotPool.aspx>

Proposed Modifications to NERC’s Standards Development Processes (Proposed Standard Processes Manual)

A new NERC Standard Processes Manual is posted for a 30-day pre-ballot review **until 8 a.m. Eastern on April 19, 2010**. The proposed Standard Processes Manual is intended to replace the “Reliability Standards Development Procedure Version 7” manual in its entirety. Please see the project background below for more information.

Instructions

Registered Ballot Body members may join the ballot pool to be eligible to vote on the proposed manual by logging in the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/BallotPool.aspx>.

During the pre-ballot window, members of the ballot pool 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 list server for this ballot pool is: bp-Process_Manual_Rev_in@nerc.com.

Next Steps

Voting will begin shortly after the pre-ballot review closes.

Project Background

During its January 2010 meeting, the NERC Standards Committee approved posting for industry comment a new NERC Standard Processes Manual (Manual). The draft Manual is the product of three parallel efforts to improve NERC’s standards development processes:

- Industry stakeholders submitted numerous comments during the development of the Three-year Performance Assessment, indicating the need for improvements to the standards processes, that would improve standards quality, reduce standards development time, reduce resource burdens on the industry to review and comment on draft standards, and improve the overall quality of NERC standards.
- The Standards Committee and its Process Subcommittee have been working on ideas to improve the effectiveness and speed of standards development while respecting NERC and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards development principles.
- NERC’s Ad Hoc Group for Results-based Reliability Standards submitted a preliminary report to the NERC Board of Trustees in November 2009 that highlighted the need to provide guidance to standards drafting teams and better “quality” control over the development of reliability standards.

In response to the Three-year Performance Assessment, a review by NERC staff and a member of the Standards Committee’s Process Subcommittee was conducted to compare NERC’s standards development process against

ANSI's requirements for standards accreditation, and to compare NERC's standards development process against three other ANSI-accredited standards developers.

The work of all these efforts was merged by NERC staff and combined into a new "Standard Processes Manual" that is intended to replace the "Reliability Standards Development Procedure Version 7" manual in its entirety. The proposed manual is intended to result in improvements to the standards processes by making more efficient use of limited resources while improving the quality of standards and maintaining ANSI accreditation of the standards process. (The Standard Committee also intends to propose additional improvements to other NERC standards development guidance documents to support the Results-Based Standards Initiative. These changes will be addressed in subsequent announcements.)

To assist you in the review, the following documents have been posted:

- ANSI Essential Requirements: Due process requirements for American National Standards
- Table comparing ANSI's Essential Requirements for accreditation as a standards developer against three other ANSI-accredited standards development processes, NERC's last board-approved version of the Reliability Standards Development Procedure (RSDP), and the proposed Standard Processes Manual (SPM)
- Reliability Standards Development Procedure Version 7
- Standard Processes Manual (clean and redline showing changes to the last posting)
- Consideration of Comments on Initial Posting of Standard Processes Manual

Project page: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Standards_Processes_Manual.html

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 Lauren Koller at Lauren.Koller@nerc.net*