

August 27, 2013

Mr. Thomas Galloway, CEO
North American Transmission Forum

Mr. Allen Schriver, Chair
North American Generator Forum

Dear Mr. Schriver and Mr. Galloway:

During the August 15, 2013 NERC Board of Trustees (Board) meeting, NERC President and CEO, Gerry Cauley announced that NERC will be issuing a Level 1 Advisory Alert regarding identification, through the event analysis program, as well as the manufacturer of the equipment, of a trend in 345 kV SF6 puffer type circuit breaker failures and the potential risk this poses to the reliability of the Bulk-Power System (BPS). According to available data, it is estimated that this type of breaker comprises 10-16 percent of the 345 kV breakers in service. The purpose of the Alert is to ensure industry is aware of the recent failures, so appropriate action can be taken by entities that have this particular equipment. Copies of the NERC Alert and the manufacturer's maintenance advisory that was issued in 2010 are attached.

The Alert is advisory in nature and does not require specific action to be taken. However, because the North American Transmission Forum (NATF) and North American Generator Forum (NAGF), as well as certain trade associations have members who may have this particular 345 kV equipment, this provides an excellent opportunity for NERC to work directly with you and your members to determine the extent of the condition and address the potential risk to the BPS.

NERC will continue to monitor the status of these breaker failures. NERC will share information regarding additional instances of failures, if any, and will provide updates to the Board at the February and August meetings in 2014. In order to provide the Board with a thorough understanding of the extent of conditions for this issue, NERC is requesting the NATF and NAGF each provide aggregate information from their members in advance of these meetings; such as the number of these breakers believed to be in operation and whether maintenance has been conducted to address this risk in accordance with the manufacturer's maintenance advisory. NERC also requests that trade associations whose members are not in NATF or NAGF also provide this information.

Thank you in advance for your efforts on this issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Michael Moon
Senior Director of Reliability Risk Management

cc: Regional Entity management
Trade Associations; APPA, EEI, EPSA, ELCON, NRECA, CEA, WICF

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