

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

North American Electric Reliability Corporation  
Docket No. RD17-2-000

December 27, 2016

North American Electric Reliability Corporation  
1325 G Street N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Attention: Shamai Elstein  
Senior Counsel for North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Reference: Interpretation of Reliability Standard CIP-002-5.1a — Cyber  
Security — BES Cyber System Categorization

Dear Mr. Elstein:

On November 28, 2016, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) submitted a filing seeking Commission approval of an interpretation of Reliability Standard CIP-002-5.1a — Cyber Security — BES Cyber System Categorization. NERC requests that the proposed interpretation become effective upon Commission approval.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of Reliability Standard CIP-002-5.1 is to identify and categorize BES Cyber Systems and their associated BES Cyber Assets for the application of cyber security requirements commensurate with the adverse impact that loss, compromise, or misuse of those BES Cyber Systems could have on the reliable operation of the bulk electric system.<sup>2</sup> The criteria used to categorize BES Cyber Systems are set forth in Attachment 1 to Reliability Standard CIP-002-5.1.

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<sup>1</sup> Consistent with NERC numbering convention, upon approval of the proposed interpretation, the standard number would be CIP-002-5.1a.

<sup>2</sup> See Reliability Standard CIP-002-5.1 (Cyber Security – BES Cyber System Categorization), at 1.

NERC states that the proposed interpretation provides clarification regarding the meaning of the phrase “shared BES Cyber Systems” in Criterion 2.1 of Attachment 1 to Reliability Standard CIP-002-5.1. Specifically, NERC states that the proposed interpretation “provides that: (1) the phrase ‘shared BES Cyber Systems’ in Criterion 2.1 refers to discrete BES Cyber Systems that are shared by multiple generation units; and (2) the evaluation as to whether a BES Cyber System is shared should be performed individually for each discrete BES Cyber System.”<sup>3</sup>

NERC’s petition was noticed on November 29, 2016, with interventions, comments and protests due on or before December 20, 2016. No interventions, comments or protests were received.

NERC’s uncontested petition is hereby approved pursuant to the relevant authority delegated to the Director, Office of Electric Reliability, under 18 C.F.R. § 375.303 (2016), effective as of the date of this order.

This action shall not be construed as accepting any other application, including proposed revisions of Electric Reliability Organization or Regional Entity rules or procedures pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 375.303(a)(2)(i). Such action shall not be deemed as recognition of any claimed right or obligation associated therewith and such action is without prejudice to any findings or orders which have been or which may hereafter be made by the Commission in any proceeding now pending or hereafter instituted by or against the Electric Reliability Organization or any Regional Entity.

This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2016).

Sincerely,

Michael Bardee, Director  
Office of Electric Reliability

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<sup>3</sup> See NERC Petition at 1.

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