

Fast Facts

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Overview

NERC is an international, independent, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid.

Bulk Power System Oversight

NERC oversees reliability and security for a bulk power system that:

- Provides electricity to approximately 400 million people.
- Has more than 5,966 conventional generating units (greater than 20 megawatts).
- Has a peak generating capacity of more than 1 million megawatts (2021 Summer Peak Capacity).
- Produces about 4.6 million gigawatt hours of actual energy (2021).
- Has 511,099 circuit miles, or 822,534 circuit kilometers, of transmission (greater than 100 kilovolts).

Brief History

NERC was founded in 1968 by the electric utility industry to develop and promote rules and protocols for the reliable operation of North America's bulk power system. In 2006, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) designated NERC as the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) under Section 215 of the Federal Power Act and charged NERC with developing and enforcing mandatory Reliability Standards, assessing current and future reliability trends, analyzing system events, and recommending improved practices.

Principal Activities

As the ERO, NERC:

- Works with industry to develop Reliability Standards.
- Monitors and enforces compliance with Reliability Standards.
- Assesses monetary and non-monetary penalties for noncompliance.
- Evaluates the performance and future reliability of the bulk power system through a comprehensive set of annual assessments.
- Develops special assessments on emerging reliability and security issues, as needed.
- Analyzes bulk power system events for lessons learned.
- Helps industry train, educate, and certify system operators.
- Promotes human performance improvement.
- Collects and analyzes information on potential cyber and physical security threats.
- Shares actionable grid security intelligence and threat indicators with bulk power system asset owners and operators across North America.