

Waiver for Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Communications Protocols

Action

Authorize a waiver of the Standard Processes Manual to shorten the comment period for Project 2007-02 from 45 days to 30 days, with a ballot conducted during the last 10 days of the comment period; and, also require NERC Staff to post a notice of the waiver on the project page and work with the Chair of the Standards Committee to notify the NERC Board of Trustees Standards Oversight and Technology Committee of the waiver.

Background

On November 7, 2013 the NERC Board of Trustees (Board) passed a resolution that, among other things, directed the Standards Committee and relevant Standards Drafting Team (SDT) to develop a combined COM-002 and COM-003 Standard and requested “that the Standards Committee direct the standard drafting team to work toward providing an industry approved combined standard, as contemplated by the foregoing resolutions, for Board approval as quickly as possible, but in no event later than the Board’s February 2014 meeting.” The Project 2007-02 SDT has been working to draft a COM Standard that is responsive to the Board’s resolution.

The defined term “Reliability Directive” is currently being considered by the Project 2007-02 SDT in proposed Reliability Standard COM-002-4. The same term is used in revised TOP and IRO Standards pending with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). On November 21, 2013, FERC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) proposing to remand the TOP and IRO Standards including the definition of “Reliability Directive.” As a result of the NOPR, the Project 2007-02 SDT is also considering alternatives to using the term Reliability Directive. The SDT needs additional time to conduct outreach to the IRO and TOP SDTs to obtain feedback on the options currently under consideration for COM-002-4 with respect to the definition of “Reliability Directive.”

Currently, to meet the Board deadline, the SDT would likely need to post on or about December 4, 2013 for a full 45-day comment and ballot period. In order to provide the Project 2007-02 SDT time to coordinate with the IRO and TOP SDTs and meet the February Board deadline, a reduction in the comment and ballot period is needed from 45 days to 30 days.

As required by Section 16 of the NERC Standard Processes Manual, NERC provided stakeholders with notice of this request on December 3, 2013 (see attached).

Notice of Request to Waive the Standard Process

Project 2007-02 Operating Personnel Communications Protocols COM-002 and COM-003

Notice of Request to Waive the Standard Process

As required by Section 16 of the Standards Processes Manual, this is official notice to stakeholders that the Chair of the Standards Committee is requesting that the Standards Committee consider a waiver of the Standard Processes Manual to shorten the formal comment and ballot period, from 45 days to 30 days to meet a NERC Board of Trustees (“Board”) requested deadline to “work toward providing an industry approved combined standard, as contemplated by the foregoing resolutions, for Board approval as quickly as possible, but in no event later than the Board’s February 2014 meeting.”

To comply with the five day business day notice requirement, the Standards Committee will meet to consider this waiver request on December 11, 2013. Notice of the Standards Committee’s meeting has been announced and posted on the NERC website. Additional details about the waiver request are included below, and should a waiver be granted by the Standards Committee, it will be posted on the [project page](#).

Authority

Pursuant to Section 16 of the NERC Standard Processes Manual, the Standards Committee may reduce the days for formal comment and ballot for good cause shown and to meet a Board’s deadline.

Justification for Waiver Request

On November 7, 2013 the Board passed a resolution that, among other things, directed the Standards Committee and relevant Standards Drafting Team (SDT) to develop a combined COM-002 and COM-003 Standard and requested “that the Standards Committee direct the standard drafting team to work toward providing an industry approved combined standard, as contemplated by the foregoing resolutions, for Board approval as quickly as possible, but in no event later than the Board’s February 2014 meeting.” The Project 2007-02 SDT has been working to draft a COM Standard that is responsive to the Board’s resolution.

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*For more information or assistance, please contact [Howard Gugel](#),
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