



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Standards Announcement Successive Ballot Results

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

### **Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance Definition**

A successive ballot for the definition of “Protection System” ended **on October 14, 2010**.

#### **Successive Ballot Results**

Voting statistics are listed below, and the [Ballot Results](#) Web page provides a link to the detailed results:

Quorum: 84.11%

Approval: 84.52 %

Since at least one negative ballot included a comment, these results are not final. Another ballot (either a successive ballot or a recirculation ballot) must be conducted.

#### **Transition from Reliability Standards Development Procedure Version 7 – to Standard Processes Manual**

Under the Reliability Standards Development Procedure Version 7, consensus was built with successive formal comment periods, followed by a 30-day pre-ballot review, followed by an initial ballot, and then a recirculation ballot. The intent was to use stakeholder views submitted through the formal comment periods to achieve consensus, and then to confirm that consensus during the balloting. This process did not allow a drafting team to make any changes to a standard (or definition) between ballots, which incited teams to avoid making improvements once a standard (or definition) had gone through an initial ballot. If a team made a change between ballots, then the standard (or definition) was required to be posted for a new comment period and then another pre-ballot review and another initial ballot, and finally if there were no more changes made to the standard (or definition), a recirculation ballot was conducted to confirm consensus.

Under the new Standard Processes Manual, consensus is achieved through parallel comment and ballot periods. Successive comment and ballot periods are conducted until there is consensus – and then a recirculation ballot is conducted to confirm that consensus. There is no 30-day pre-ballot review period, and drafting teams are encouraged to make revisions to the standard between successive ballots to improve the quality of the standard (or definition).

#### **Next Steps**

The drafting team will review the comments submitted with ballots and post its consideration of those comments.

## **Project Background**

When the Board of Trustees was asked to approve an interpretation of PRC-005-1 that was written by the Protection System and Maintenance Standard Drafting Team, the board acknowledged the reliability gap identified by the drafting team caused by the definition of "protection system" and directed that work to close this reliability gap should be given "priority." The Standards Committee directed the team to advance the definition of Protection System in parallel with the development of PRC-005-2.

**Project Page:** [http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Protection\\_System\\_Maintenance\\_Project\\_2007-17.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Protection_System_Maintenance_Project_2007-17.html)

## **Ballot Criteria**

Approval requires both a (1) quorum, which is established by at least 75% of the members of the ballot pool submitting either an affirmative vote, a negative vote, or an abstention, and (2) a two-thirds majority of the weighted segment votes cast must be affirmative; the number of votes cast is the sum of affirmative and negative votes, excluding abstentions and non-responses. If there are no negative votes with reasons from the first (or successive) ballot, the results of that ballot shall stand. If, however, one or more members submit negative votes with reasons, another ballot shall be conducted. If the team makes significant changes to the definition, then another successive ballot must be conducted. If the team does not make any significant changes to the definition, then a final recirculation ballot is conducted.

## **Standards Process**

The [Standard Processes Manual](#) 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 Monica Benson at [monica.benson@nerc.net](mailto:monica.benson@nerc.net).*