



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Standards Announcement Project 2009-06 Facility Ratings Initial Ballot Results

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

An initial ballot on revisions to FAC-008- Facility Ratings, and a concurrent non-binding poll of associated VRF and VSLs concluded on May 2, 2011.

### **Ballot Results for Revisions to FAC-008**

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

Quorum: 86.01 %

Approval: 48.74 %

### **Non-binding Poll Results for Associated VRF and VSLs**

Of those who registered to participate, 47% provided an opinion; 73% of those who provided an opinion indicated support for the VRFs and VSLs that were proposed.

### **Next Steps**

The drafting team will post its consideration of all comments, along with clean and redline versions of the standard showing any changes the drafting team makes to respond to comments, and a recirculation ballot will be conducted. In order for the ERO to be in compliance with the applicable directives, the revisions to FAC-008 must be filed with FERC no later than June 15, 2011.

### **Background:**

As the ERO, NERC must address all directives in Orders issued by FERC. The Facility Ratings Standard Drafting Team (FR SDT) has been tasked with creating a requirement to address a Supplemental SAR to address the reliability concerns related to Facility Ratings initially discussed in paragraphs 756 and 771 of FERC's Order 693, and further explained in paragraph 76 of FERC's "Order Denying Rehearing, Denying Clarification, Denying Reconsideration, and Denying Request for a Stay," September 16, 2010. These concerns relate to ensuring broad situational awareness regarding the most limiting elements of Facilities.

In Order 693, FERC explained in paragraph 756:

"...The Commission's proposed modification would require identifying and documenting the limiting component for all facilities and the increase in rating if that component were no longer the most limiting component; in other words, the rating based on the second-most limiting component. The Commission further clarifies that this Reliability Standard will require this additional thermal rating information only for those facilities for which thermal ratings cause the following: (1) an IROL; (2) a limitation of TTC; (3) an impediment to generation deliverability or (4) an impediment to service to major cities or load pockets."

And provided further direction in paragraph 771:



“...we direct the ERO to develop modifications to FAC-008-1 through its Reliability Standards development process requiring transmission and generation facility owners to: (1) document underlying assumptions and methods used to determine normal and emergency facility ratings; (2) develop facility ratings consistent with industry standards developed through an open, transparent and validated process and (3) for each facility, identify the limiting component and, for critical facilities, the resulting increase in rating if that component is no longer limiting.”

FERC later explained in paragraph 76 of its September 16, 2010 Order Denying Rehearing, Denying Clarification, Denying Reconsideration, and Denying Request for a Stay:

“In order to determine facility ratings, entities must identify the most limiting component that comprises the facility, based on a validated methodology that considers the specific characteristics and ratings of all of the components to determine their limits for a range of ambient conditions, including if and for what duration these limits can be exceeded. This is, in part, because the limiting element upon which a facility rating is based can change under different operating conditions. For example, an underground high voltage cable may be the limiting element for continuous ratings, but a disconnect switch may be the limiting element for a four-hour emergency rating. With heavy power flows from generators through critical facilities to load, contingency conditions could reveal a thermal overload above the normal rating of the first limiting component of one of these facilities. However, that component also likely has a documented short time rating that could sustain the overload. If the second-most limiting component does not afford much increase in rating above the first, and its overload can result in the unintended removal of the facility from service (i.e., a relay or other protection system component that trips a facility out of service due to the overload), the prior identification of this second limiting component could alter the mitigation plans and avoid relay operations that trip facilities out-of-service, and thus potentially prevent a cascading event.”

On February 24, 2011, members of the FR SDT met with NERC and FERC staff to discuss the original directive from FERC Order 693 as well as the subsequent guidance issued in the September 16, 2010 Order.

## **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,  
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