

Implementation Plan

2012-08.1 Phase 1 of Glossary Updates: Statutory Definitions

Requested Approvals

It is requested that the following definitions be approved for addition to the NERC Glossary of Terms used in Reliability Standards:

- “Bulk-Power System” means, A) facilities and control systems necessary for operating an interconnected electric energy transmission network (or any portion thereof); and (B) electric energy from generation facilities needed to maintain transmission system reliability. The term does not include facilities used in the local distribution of electric energy.
- “Reliability Standard” means a requirement, approved by the Commission under this section, to provide for reliable operation of the bulk-power system. The term includes requirements for the operation of existing bulk-power system facilities, including cybersecurity protection, and the design of planned additions or modifications to such facilities to the extent necessary to provide for reliable operation of the bulk-power system, but the term does not include any requirement to enlarge such facilities or to construct new transmission capacity or generation capacity.
- “Reliable Operation” means operating the elements of the bulk-power system within equipment and electric system thermal, voltage, and stability limits so that instability, uncontrolled separation, or cascading failures of such system will not occur as a result of a sudden disturbance, including a cybersecurity incident, or unanticipated failure of system elements.

These definitions will apply to terms that are currently capitalized in any Reliability Standard. Where a Reliability Standard includes a non-capitalized term, capitalization will be considered during the next standards development project involving the requirement.

Requested Retirements

No Reliability Standards or definitions are requested to be retired with the approval of the addition of the definitions for Bulk-Power System, Reliability Standard, and Reliable Operation to the NERC Glossary of Terms used in Reliability Standards.

Prerequisite Approvals

No Reliability Standard or definition is under development that must be completed or implemented before the definitions for Bulk-Power System, Reliability Standard, and Reliable Operation can be added to the NERC Glossary of Terms used in Reliability Standards.

Background

In Paragraph 1894 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order 693, the Commission directed the Electric Reliability Organization to include the statutory definitions of Bulk-Power System, Reliability Standard, and Reliable Operation in the NERC Glossary of Terms used in Reliability Standards:

“1894. The Commission directs the ERO to modify the glossary through the Reliability Standards development process to include the statutory definitions of the terms Bulk-Power System, Reliable Operation and Reliability Standard. However, this determination does not negate our discussion in the Applicability section of the Final Rule. While the glossary should be revised to include the statutory definition of Bulk-Power System, the Reliability Standards refer to the bulk electric system, which is also defined in the glossary.”

The statutory definitions for Bulk-Power System, Reliability Standard, and Reliable Operation are contained in Section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 824o). Inclusion of the statutory definitions for Bulk-Power System, Reliability Standard, and Reliable Operation in the NERC Glossary of Terms will address three outstanding Commission directives.

Effective Date

The definitions of Bulk-Power System, Reliability Standard, and Reliable Operation shall be added to the NERC Glossary of Terms used in Reliability Standards effective upon applicable regulatory approval.