

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, depending on the context: (i) Facilities and control systems necessary for operating an interconnected electric energy supply and transmission network (or any portion thereof), and electric energy from generating 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 to provide for Reliable Operation of the Bulk Power System, including without limiting the foregoing, requirements for the operation of existing Bulk Power System Facilities, including cyber security protection, and including the design of planned additions or modifications to such Facilities to the extent necessary for Reliable Operation of the Bulk Power System, but the term does not include any requirement to enlarge Bulk Power System Facilities or to construct new transmission capacity or generation capacity. A Reliability Standard shall not be effective in the United States until approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and shall not be effective in other jurisdictions until made or allowed to become effective by the Applicable Governmental Authority.
- “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 Cyber Security Incident, or unanticipated failure of system Elements.

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 the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005. Inclusion of the statutory definitions for Bulk Power System, Reliability Standard, and Reliable Operation in the NERC Glossary of Terms used in Reliability Standards will address three outstanding Commission directives.

The statutory definitions for Bulk Power System, Reliability Standard, and Reliable Operation contained in the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 were previously submitted by NERC in a petition to FERC, dated November 29, 2011. The petition requested approval of numerous revisions to NERC’s Rules of Procedure (ROP); including, but not limited to, a new Appendix 2 to the ROP, *Definitions Used in the Rules of Procedure*. On January 31, 2012, the Commission issued an Order approving NERC’s November 29, 2011, request.

The proposed definitions for Bulk Power System, Reliability Standard, and Reliable Operation are identical to the definitions approved by the Commission in their January 31, 2012 Order and are responsive to the Commission’s directives from Paragraph 1894 of Order 693. Approval of the proposed definitions for Bulk Power System, Reliability Standard, and Reliable Operation also ensures both the NERC Glossary of Terms used in Reliability Standards and the NERC ROP contain consistent (identical) definitions for these terms.

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.