

# Consideration of Comments

## Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) Regional Standards Processes Manual

The NPCC Drafting Team thanks all commenters who submitted comments on the latest version of the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) Regional Standard Processes Manual. It was posted for a 45-day public comment period from April 24, 2014 through May 7, 2014. Stakeholders were asked to provide feedback on the standards and associated documents through a special electronic comment form. There was 1 set of comments, including comments from approximately 16 different people from approximately 1 company representing 4 of the 10 Industry Segments as shown in the table on the following pages.

All comments submitted may be reviewed in their original format on the standard's [project page](#).

If you feel that your comment has been overlooked, please let us know immediately. Our goal is to give every comment serious consideration in this process! If you feel there has been an error or omission, you can contact the Director of Standards, Valeria Agnew, at 404-446-2566 or at [valeria.agnew@nerc.net](mailto:valeria.agnew@nerc.net). In addition, there is a NERC Reliability Standards Appeals Process.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The appeals process is in the Standard Processes Manual: [http://www.nerc.com/comm/SC/Documents/Appendix\\_3A\\_StandardsProcessesManual.pdf](http://www.nerc.com/comm/SC/Documents/Appendix_3A_StandardsProcessesManual.pdf)

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**The Industry Segments are:**

- 1 — Transmission Owners
- 2 — RTOs, ISOs
- 3 — Load-serving Entities
- 4 — Transmission-dependent Utilities
- 5 — Electric Generators
- 6 — Electricity Brokers, Aggregators, and Marketers
- 7 — Large Electricity End Users
- 8 — Small Electricity End Users
- 9 — Federal, State, Provincial Regulatory or other Government Entities
- 10 — Regional Reliability Organizations, Regional Entities

Group/Individual		Commenter	Organization	Registered Ballot Body Segment									
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Group	Mike Garton	Dominion	X		X		X	X				
Additional Member	Additional Organization	Region	Segment Selection										
1.	Connie Lowe	NERC Compliance Policy	NA - Not Applicable	1, 3, 5, 6									
2.	Louis Slade	NERC Compliance Policy	NA - Not Applicable	1, 3, 5, 6									
3.	Randi Heise	NERC Compliance Policy	NA - Not Applicable	1, 3, 5, 6									
4.	Chip Humphrey	Power Generation Compliance	NA - Not Applicable	5									
5.	Dan Goyne	Power Generation Compliance	NA - Not Applicable	5									
6.	Jarad L Morton	Power Generation Compliance	NA - Not Applicable	5									
7.	Larry Whanger	Power Generation Compliance	SERC	5									
8.	Nancy Ashberry	Power Generation Compliance	RFC	5									
9.	Angela Park	Electric Transmission Compliance	SERC	1, 3									

Group/Individual	Commenter	Organization		Registered Ballot Body Segment											
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
10. Candace L Marshall	Electric Transmission Compliance	SERC	1, 3												
11. John Calder	Electric Transmission Compliance	SERC	1, 3												
12. Larry Nash	Electric Transmission Compliance	SERC	1, 3												
13. Larry W Bateman	Electric Transmission Compliance	SERC	1, 3												
14. Jeffrey N Bailey	Nuclear Compliance	SERC	5												
15. Tom Huber	Nuclear Compliance	NPCC	5												

If you support the comments submitted by another entity and would like to indicate you agree with their comments, please select "agree" below and enter the entity's name in the comment section (please provide the name of the organization, trade association, group, or committee, rather than the name of the individual submitter).

Summary Consideration:

Organization	Agree	Supporting Comments of "Entity Name"
N/A	N/A	N/A

1. Do you agree the revised NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual continues to meet the “Open” criteria as outlined above? If “No”, please explain in the comment area below

**Summary Consideration:**

Organization	Yes or No	Question 1 Comment
Dominion	Yes	

2. Do you agree the revised NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual continues to meet the “Inclusive” criteria as outlined above? If “No”, please explain in the comment area below

**Summary Consideration:**

Organization	Yes or No	Question 2 Comment
Dominion	Yes	

3. Do you agree the revised NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual continues to meet the “Balanced” criteria as outlined above? If “No”, please explain in the comment area below

**Summary Consideration:**

Organization	Yes or No	Question 3 Comment
Dominion	Yes	



4. Do you agree the revised NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual continues to meet the “Due Process” criteria as outlined above? If “No”, please explain in the comment area below

**Summary Consideration:**

Organization	Yes or No	Question 4 Comment
Dominion	Yes	

5. Do you agree the revised NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual continues to meet the “Transparent” criteria as outlined above? If “No”, please explain in the comment area below

Summary Consideration:

Organization	Yes or No	Question 5 Comment
Dominion	Yes	<p>Although all questions are answered in the affirmative, Dominion continues to be concerned that the NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual is inconsistent with NERC’s Rules of Procedure and the NERC Standard Processes Manual. Specifically, as Dominion previously provided comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dominion does not agree with the proposed revision replacing “interpretation” with “clarification” as this introduces inconsistency with the NERC Rules of Procedure and fails to attain approval of the Applicable Governmental Authorities. While we appreciate the response to our previous comments and understand that NPCC is working with NERC to overhaul its interpretation process, Dominion believes that NERC should set the standard for the ERO Enterprise via its Rules of Procedure.</li> <li>2. Dominion does not support the purpose language “Provides a level of Bulk Electric System reliability that is adequate to protect public health, safety, and national security...” as it is overreaching and inconsistent with the ERO’s authority established in Section 215. In prior comments, Dominion recommended replacing this language with “Provides an adequate level of reliability for the Bulk Electric System.” NPCC’s response to Dominion’s comments stated the language was taken directly from the National Electricity Reliability Act and was also used in a TRE petition for approval of BAL-001-TRE-01. The National Electricity Reliability Act (i.e. H.R. 312, 107th Congress) died in Committee and the NPCC language should be consistent with ERO authority established in Section 215, regardless of the TRE filing.</li> </ol>

Organization	Yes or No	Question 5 Comment
		<p>3. Dominion does not agree with NPCC’s adoption of the meaning of the phrase “physical difference” consistent with FERC’s Order, issued September 22, 2004, Granting Request for Clarification regarding Docket No. PL04-5-000, Policy Statement on Matters Related to Bulk Power System Reliability. The FERC Order pre-dates Subtitle A of the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005 adding Section 215 to the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. Â§ 824n). While Dominion appreciates NPCC’s response to our prior comments, we continue to believe usage of the phrase “physical difference” should be consistent with the Act, ERO Regulations, and the NERC Rules of Procedure.</p>
<p><b>Response:</b> The FERC approved and currently in effect NPCC Regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure has been amended in accordance with Section 311 of the NERC Rules of Procedure. Section 311 permits a Regional Entity to develop a Regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure as long as the procedure meets certain criteria. That Section also permits, but does not require, a Regional Entity to adopt the NERC Standard Processes Manual. NPCC chose not to adopt the NERC Standard Processes Manual. However, the NPCC Regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure, now renamed the NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual, is consistent with, although not the same as, the NERC Standard Processes Manual.</p> <p>1. The proposal to replace interpretation with clarification is not inconsistent with the NERC Rules of Procedure. As described above, Regional Entities are permitted to develop a Regional Reliability Standards Development Procedure that differs from the NERC Standard Processes Manual. The interpretation process that has been applied based on the NERC Standard Process Manual is overly process intensive and requires the dedication of significant time and resources. In addition, it has resulted in remands from FERC, and potential conflicting Filings with the Canadian Provinces. Because NPCC’s Reliability Standards are intended to apply in five jurisdictions, remands from FERC or any other Applicable Governmental Authority present issues that could lead to unnecessary inconsistencies between jurisdictions.</p> <p>The NPCC process for clarifications is intended to provide Registered Entities with the Task Force/Drafting Team’s timely clarification of a stakeholder issue. This clarification, as outlined in the NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual must be posted for industry comment, and approved by the NPCC Board of Directors. It does not require filing with NERC or the Applicable Governmental Authorities because clarifications do not effectuate revisions to a standard. Additionally, registered entities will still have the opportunity to comment on the Task Force/Drafting Team’s clarification during comment periods.</p>		

Organization	Yes or No	Question 5 Comment
		<p data-bbox="142 284 1908 386">2. The language referenced by Dominion is not inconsistent with ERO’s authority in the United States. The language referenced by Dominion is not purpose language, but is simply one of several objectives that the NPCC Reliability Standards Development Process must achieve for a NPCC Regional Reliability Standard to be approved by NERC.</p> <p data-bbox="142 423 1908 526">FERC and other Applicable Governmental Authorities will apply their own requirements for approval when the NPCC Regional Reliability Standard is filed with them. Reliability Standards filed with FERC must be consistent with Section 215 of the Federal Power Act to be approved and any proposed NPCC Regional Reliability Standard must still meet that test for FERC approval.</p> <p data-bbox="142 563 1908 737">3. FERC’s Order, issued September 22, 2004, Order Granting Request for Clarification regarding Docket No. PL04-5-000, Policy Statement on Matters Related to Bulk Power System Reliability clarified that “physical difference” is not limited to the physical characteristics of the bulk power system itself, but may also include other factors, such as population density and reliance on mass transit that uses electric power. The use of the term physical difference and the reference to the FERC Policy Statement is not inconsistent with the Federal Power Act, the ERO Regulations, or the NERC Rules of Procedure.</p> <p data-bbox="142 774 1908 915">In FERC Order 672, the Commission stated that it would accept the following two types of regional differences, provided they are otherwise “just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential and in the public interest, ...” : (1) “a regional difference that is more stringent than the continent-wide Reliability Standard, ...”; and (2) a regional Reliability Standard that is “necessitated by a physical difference in the Bulk-Power System”.</p> <p data-bbox="142 953 1908 1058">The reference to physical differences and the related footnote in the NPCC Regional Standard Processes Manual simply permits NPCC Regional Standards to be developed based on such physical differences that are not limited to the physical characteristics of the bulk power system itself. This is consistent with the Federal Power Act, FERC Regulations and Orders, and the NERC Rules of Procedure.</p>

**END OF REPORT**