

# Standards Announcement

## Revisions to Outstanding Violation Risk Factors and Violation Severity Levels

Non-binding Poll Open: October 10-19, 2012

### [Project Page](#)

A non-binding poll for the proposed revisions to outstanding Violation Risk Factors (VRFs) and Violation Severity Levels (VSLs) is open until **8 p.m. ET Friday, October 19, 2012.**

### Instructions for Non-binding Poll

Members of the ballot pool for the non-binding poll associated with this project may log in and submit their vote for the revised VRFs and VSLs by clicking [here](#). **Note that during the industry webinar for this project, held on September 17, 2012, NERC staff announced that the VRFs and VSLs would be voted on by standards family. Instead, NERC staff has elected to hold only one vote for all of the revisions. NERC staff will distinguish the general level of approval for specific VRFs and VSLs by reviewing the comments.**

### Instructions for Commenting

Please use this [electronic form](#) to submit comments. If you experience any difficulties in using the electronic form, please contact Monica Benson at [monica.benson@nerc.net](mailto:monica.benson@nerc.net). An off-line, unofficial copy of the comment form is posted on the [project page](#). All comments must be submitted by 8 p.m. ET Friday, October 19, 2012.

**Please read carefully:** All stakeholders with comments (both members of the ballot pool as well as other stakeholders, including groups such as trade associations and committees) must submit comments through the [electronic comment form](#). During the non-binding poll, stakeholders who wish to submit comments with their vote may no longer enter comments on the balloting screen, but may still enter the comments through the electronic comment form.

### Next Steps

Unless substantive modifications are required after the comment period and non-binding poll, the VRFs and VSLs will be presented to the NERC Board of Trustees for approval and filed with FERC. FERC has requested a filing no later than February 2013.

### Background

NERC standards, legal, and enforcement staff have been working in coordination with FERC staff to review a set of VRF and VSL assignments for possible revision or further justification. In general, the

VRFs and VSLs require revision in order to reflect the NERC and FERC VRF and VSL guidelines finalized between 2007 and 2009. FERC staff identified VRFs and VSLs in need of modification or further justification and presented them to NERC staff, offering a chance for review and modification before the Commission issues a final order.

Both VRFs and VSLs are typically posted with standards and subject to review periods and non-binding polls. Because these VRF and VSL changes are not associated with active standards projects, there is no built-in mechanism for ensuring their review by stakeholders, but NERC staff wants to ensure that the proposed revisions or justifications for the outstanding VRFs and VSLs undergo the same industry review as other VRFs and VSLs.

For more background information on this project, please refer to the [Background Document](#).

*For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson,  
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