



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

Standards Announcement Initial Ballot Results

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

Proposed Modifications to NERC's Standards Development Processes (Proposed Standard Processes Manual)

The initial ballot for a new NERC Standard Processes Manual ended on April 29, 2010.

Ballot Results

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

Quorum: 87.82 %
Approval: 80.48 %

Since at least one negative ballot included a comment, these results are not final. A second (or recirculation) ballot must be conducted. Ballot criteria are listed at the end of the announcement.

Next Steps

As part of the recirculation ballot process, the drafting team must draft and post responses to voter comments. The drafting team will also determine whether or not to make revisions to the balloted item(s). Should the team decide to make revisions, the revised item(s) will return to the initial ballot phase.

Project Background

During its January 2010 meeting, the NERC Standards Committee approved posting for industry comment a new NERC Standard Processes Manual (Manual). The draft Manual is the product of three parallel efforts to improve NERC's standards development processes:

- Industry stakeholders submitted numerous comments during the development of the Three-year Performance Assessment, indicating the need for improvements to the standards processes, that would improve standards quality, reduce standards development time, reduce resource burdens on the industry to review and comment on draft standards, and improve the overall quality of NERC standards.
- The Standards Committee and its Process Subcommittee have been working on ideas to improve the effectiveness and speed of standards development while respecting NERC and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards development principles.
- NERC's Ad Hoc Group for Results-based Reliability Standards submitted a preliminary report to the NERC Board of Trustees in November 2009 that highlighted the need to provide guidance to standards drafting teams and better "quality" control over the development of reliability standards.

In response to the Three-year Performance Assessment, a review by NERC staff and a member of the Standards Committee's Process Subcommittee was conducted to compare NERC's standards development process against ANSI's requirements for standards accreditation, and to compare NERC's standards development process against three other ANSI-accredited standards developers.

The work of all these efforts was merged by NERC staff and combined into a new "Standard Processes Manual" that is intended to replace the "Reliability Standards Development Procedure Version 7" manual in its entirety. The proposed manual is intended to result in improvements to the standards processes by making more efficient use of limited resources while improving the quality of standards and maintaining ANSI accreditation of the standards process. (The Standard Committee also intends to propose additional improvements to other NERC standards development guidance documents to support the Results-Based Standards Initiative. These changes will be addressed in subsequent announcements.)

Project page: http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Standards_Processes_Manual.html

Standards Development Process

The *Reliability Standards Development Procedure* 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.

Ballot Criteria

Approval requires both a (1) quorum, which is established by at least 75% of the members of the ballot pool for submitting either an affirmative vote, a negative vote, or an abstention, and (2) A two-thirds majority of the weighted segment votes cast must be affirmative; the number of votes cast is the sum of affirmative and negative votes, excluding abstentions and nonresponses. If there are no negative votes with reasons from the first ballot, the results of the first ballot shall stand. If, however, one or more members submit negative votes with reasons, a second ballot shall be conducted.

For more information or assistance, please contact Lauren Koller at Lauren.Koller@nerc.net